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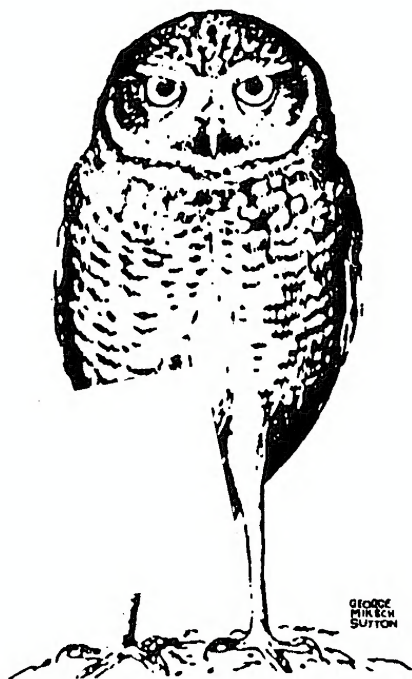
Nebraska Bird Review

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The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
Treasurer's Annual Report 12/31/96

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance 1/1/96 on cash basis per bank account	\$ 2281.81	\$ 14,302.74	\$ 16,584.55

Receipts:

Memberships	\$ 2725.00		
Subscriptions	375.00		
Spring Meeting	827.00		
Fall Meeting	2499.00		
Scholarship Donations	183.55		
Interest		1162.85	
Transfers from CDs	1914.19		
Misc.	153.87		
CD Purchase 3/16/96		12,681.60	
CD Purchase 9/16/96		13,324.25	
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>\$ 8677.61</u>	<u>\$ 27,168.70</u>	<u>\$ 35,846.31</u>

Disbursements:

The Nebraska Bird Review:

1995, 2 Vols.	\$ 1118.25		
1996, 3 Vols.	1858.43		
Newsletter Printing	308.82		
Bulk Mail Postage	494.63		
Spring Meeting	816.00		
Fall Meeting	2457.00		
Records Committee	86.70		
CD Purchase 9/16/96	2300.00		
CD Withdrawal 12/31/96		914.19	
CD Maturity 3/16/96		11,024.25	
CD Maturity 9/16/96		13,681.60	
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 9439.83</u>	<u>\$ 25,620.04</u>	<u>\$ 35,059.87</u>
<u>Balance 12/31/96</u>	<u>\$ 1519.59</u>	<u>\$ 15,851.40</u>	<u>\$ 17,370.99</u>

CD #29567277 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 10,551.66
Rate 5.827% annual, issued June 14, 1995
Value @ 3/14/96 \$ 11,024.25. Redeemed March 16, 1996

CD # 33586466 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 13,324.25
Rate 5.35% annual, issued March 16, 1996
Value @ 9/16/96 \$ 13,681.60 Redeemed September 16, 1996

CD # 24649440 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 3500.00
Issued Dec. 31, 1994, matures Dec. 31, 1995, rolled over month to month. Step-up rate 5.5 to 6.15% = 6.0% avg.
Withdrawal 12/31/96 \$914.19. Value @ 12/31/96 \$3000.00

CD #37100080 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 12,681.60
Issued 9/16/96, matures 9/16/97, rolled over month to month.
Step-up rate 5.3 to 5.9% = 5.75% avg.
Value @ 12/31/96 \$12,851.40

Elizabeth (Betty) Grenon, Treasurer

THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska was last published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988). That list included 406 species whose occurrence in Nebraska had been documented to the satisfaction of the NOU Records Committee at that time, following the sequence and nomenclature as outlined by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983, 1985, 1987). The present list includes 427 species based on all changes to the Official List of the Birds of Nebraska as determined by the NOU Records Committee (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1997; Brogie 1997), as well as sequence and taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union (1989, 1991, 1993, 1995). Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 1987-1996. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1988):

- Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years
- Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years
- Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years
- Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years
- Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world

The frequency of occurrence for any species that was acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years was discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee. The NOU Records Committee seeks documentation for all species of less than regular occurrence in Nebraska as well as for those species whose occurrence has not been documented in Nebraska. Documentations currently may be sent to Mark Brogie, Records Committee Chair, 508 Seeley, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729.

Firmness of data supporting a bird on this list is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1986): an adequately labelled diagnostic specimen (I-S); an adequately labelled diagnostic photo or slide (I-P); an adequately labelled diagnostic recording (I-R); a sight record with three or more acceptable written documentations (II); and a sight record with one or two acceptable written documentations (III). Species whose occurrence in the state is believed indisputable although no acceptable documentation exists is indicated by (**). A summary of the changes follows.

Species Added to the List Based on Acceptable Documentation

- Yellow-billed Loon, *Gavia adamsii*: Accidental, I-P
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*:
Accidental, I-S
- Sage Grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*: Accidental, III
- Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*: Accidental, I-P
- Little Gull, *Larus minutus*: Accidental, I-P
- Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: Accidental, I-P
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*: Casual, I-P
- Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*: Accidental, I-P
- Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Casual, I-P
- Ross' Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*: Accidental, I-P
- Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*: Accidental, III
- White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*: Accidental, I-P
- Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*: Accidental, I-P
- Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*: Accidental, I-P
- Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Accidental, I-P
- Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*: Accidental, III
- Cave Swallow, *Hirundo fulva*: Accidental, I-S
- Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli*: Accidental, III

Virginia's Warbler, *Vermivora virginiae*: Accidental, III
Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza belli*: Accidental, III

Species Deleted from the List After Further Review of Existing Records

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*)
Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*)

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) replaces Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. dominica*), which is split into American Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) and Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*). After the split, the AOU changed the scientific name of American Golden-Plover from *P. dominica* to *P. dominicus*.
Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) replaces Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*), which is split into Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) and Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*).
Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) is replaced by American Pipit (*A. rubescens*), which is no longer considered a race of Water Pipit.
Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is split into Eastern Towhee (*P. erythrophthalmus*) and Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*), both of which occur regularly in Nebraska.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) replaces Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*), which is split into Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*) and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*).
Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is again split into Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*) and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*), both of which occur regularly in Nebraska.
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) replaces Rosy Finch (*L. arctoa*), which is again split into Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*L. tephrocotis*), Black Rosy-Finch (*L. atrata*), and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*L. australis*).

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

Pacific Loon, changed from Accidental to Casual
Clark's Grebe, changed from Accidental to Regular
Eurasian Wigeon, changed from Accidental to Casual
Oldsquaw, changed from Casual to Regular
Black Scoter, changed from Accidental to Casual
Surf Scoter, changed from Casual to Regular
White-winged Scoter, changed from Casual to Regular
Barrow's Goldeneye, changed from Accidental to Casual
King Rail, changed from Accidental to Casual
Snowy Plover, changed from Accidental to Casual
Black-necked Stilt, changed from Casual to Regular
Red Knot, changed from Accidental to Casual
Red Phalarope, changed from Accidental to Casual
Laughing Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual
California Gull, changed from Casual to Regular
Thayer's Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual
Iceland Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual
Glaucous Gull, changed from Casual to Regular
Black-legged Kittiwake, changed from Accidental to Casual
Rufous Hummingbird, changed from Regular to Casual
Cordilleran Flycatcher, changed from Regular to Casual
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, changed from Regular to Casual
Clark's Nutcracker, changed from Accidental to Casual
Sage Thrasher, changed from Accidental to Casual

Bohemian Waxwing, changed from Regular to Casual
White-eyed Vireo, changed from Regular to Casual
Prairie Warbler, changed from Casual to Accidental
Connecticut Warbler, changed from Casual to Regular
Baird's Sparrow, changed from Casual to Accidental
Henslow's Sparrow, changed from Accidental to Casual
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, changed from Regular to Casual
pine Grosbeak, changed from Casual to Accidental

Changes in Firmness of Data

Red-necked Grebe, changed from II to I-P
Brown Pelican, changed from III to I-P
Snowy Egret, changed from II to I-P
Mississippi Kite, changed from I-P to I-S
Red Knot, changed from II to I-P
Laughing Gull, changed from III to I-P
Thayer's Gull, changed from III to I-P
Iceland Gull, changed from III to I-P
Black-legged Kittiwake, changed from I-P to I-S
Calliope Hummingbird, changed from II to I-P
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, changed from ** to I-P
Williamson's Sapsucker, changed from III to I-S
Pileated Woodpecker, changed from II to I-P
Alder Flycatcher, changed from ** to I-R
Cordilleran Flycatcher, changed from ** to I-R
Canyon Wren, changed from III to I-P
Bewick's Wren, changed from III to I-P
Golden-winged Warbler, changed from III to I-S
Connecticut Warbler, changed from III to I-P
Cassin's Sparrow, changed from II to I-P
Great-tailed Grackle, changed from I-P to I-S

Name Changes

Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) changed to
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).
Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) changed to Great Egret (*Ardea
albus*).
Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) changed to Green Heron
(*Butorides virescens*).
American Swallow-tailed Kite changed to Swallow-tailed Kite.
Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) changed to White-tailed
Kite (*Elanus leucurus*).
Common Black-headed Gull changed to Black-headed Gull.
Common Barn-Owl changed to Barn Owl.
Northern Hawk-Owl changed to Northern Hawk Owl.
Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) changed to Burrowing Owl
(*Speotyto cunicularia*).

Other Changes

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) is added after
inadvertently being left off the original list.
Following AOU, the order of Falconidae is changed with Prairie
Falcon placed between Merlin and Peregrine Falcon.

Current Records Committee members are Mark Brogie (chair),
Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Thomas
Labeledz, Loren Padelford, and Ross Silcock. Joe Gubanyi, a past
member, voted on records in this report.

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Joe Gubanyi
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Seward, NE 68434

THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

Order GAVIIFORMES
Family Gaviidae: Loons

Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*: Accidental, I-P
Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica*: Casual, I-P
Common Loon, *Gavia immer*: Regular, I-S

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES
Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*: Regular, I-S
Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*: Regular, I-S
Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*: Accidental, I-P
Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*: Regular, I-S
Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*: Regular, I-S
Clark's Grebe, *Aechmophorus clarkii*: Regular, I-S

Order PELECANIFORMES

Family Pelecanidae: Pelicans

American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*: Regular, I-S
Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Accidental, I-P

Family Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*: Regular, I-S
Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Accidental, I-S

Family Anhingidae: Darters

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*: Accidental, I-S

Order CICONIIFORMES

Family Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons

American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*: Regular, I-S
Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*: Regular, I-S
Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*: Regular, I-S
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*: Regular, I-S
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*: Regular, I-P
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*: Regular, I-S
Tricolored Heron, *Egretta tricolor*: Accidental, I-S
Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*: Regular, I-P
Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*: Regular, I-S
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*: Regular, I-S

Family Threskiornithidae: Ibises and Spoonbills

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*: Regular, I-S
Roseate Spoonbill, *Ajaia ajaja*: Accidental, II

Family Ciconiidae: Storks

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*: Accidental, III

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family Anatidae: Swans, Geese and Ducks

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Accidental, I-S
Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus*: Casual, I-S
Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*: Regular, I-S
Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis*: Accidental, I-P
Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*: Regular, I-S
Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*: Regular, I-S
Ross' Goose, *Chen rossii*: Regular, I-S
Brant, *Branta bernicla*: Accidental, I-S
Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*: Regular, I-S
Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*: Regular, I-S
Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca*: Regular, I-S

American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*: Regular, I-S
Mottled Duck, *Anas fulvigula*: Accidental, I-P
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*: Regular, I-S
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*: Regular, I-S
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*: Regular, I-S
Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*: Regular, I-S
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*: Regular, I-S
Gadwall, *Anas strepera*: Regular, I-S
Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*: Casual, I-S
American Wigeon, *Anas americana*: Regular, I-S
Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*: Regular, I-S
Redhead, *Aythya americana*: Regular, I-S
Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*: Regular, I-S
Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*: Regular, I-S
Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*: Regular, I-S
Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*: Accidental, I-S
King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*: Accidental, I-P
Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*: Accidental, I-S
Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*: Regular, I-S
Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*: Casual, I-S
Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*: Regular, I-S
White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta fusca*: Regular, I-S
Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*: Regular, I-S
Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica*: Casual, I-P
Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*: Regular, I-S
Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*: Regular, I-S
Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*: Regular, I-S
Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*: Regular, I-S
Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*: Regular, I-S

Order FALCONIFORMES

Family Cathartidae: American Vultures

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*: Accidental, I-S
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*: Regular, I-S

Family Accipitridae: Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Allies

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*: Regular, I-S
Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*: Extirpated, I-S
White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*: Accidental, I-P
Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*: Regular, I-S
Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*: Regular, I-S
Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*: Regular, I-S
Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*: Regular, I-S
Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*: Regular, I-S
Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*: Accidental, I-S
Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*: Regular, I-S
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*: Regular, I-S
Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*: Regular, I-S
Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*: Regular, I-S
Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*: Regular, I-S
Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*: Regular, I-S
Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*: Regular, I-S

Family Falconidae: Falcons

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*: Regular, I-S
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*: Regular, I-S
Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*: Regular, I-S

peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*: Regular, I-S
gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus*: Casual, I-S

Order GALLIFORMES

Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail

Gray Partridge, *Perdix perdix*: Regular, I-S
Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*: Regular, I-S
Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*: Extirpated, I-S
Sage Grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*: Accidental, III
Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido*: Regular, I-S
Lesser Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*: Extirpated, I-S
Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*: Regular, I-S
Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*: Regular, I-S
Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*: Regular, I-S

Order GRUIFORMES

Family Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*: Accidental, I-S
Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*: Accidental, **
Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*: Accidental, I-S
King Rail, *Rallus elegans*: Casual, I-S
Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*: Regular, I-S
Sora, *Porzana carolina*: Regular, I-S
Purple Gallinule, *Porphyryla martinica*: Accidental, III
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*: Accidental, I-S
American Coot, *Fulica americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Gruidae: Cranes

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*: Regular, I-S
Common Crane, *Grus grus*: Accidental, I-P
Whooping Crane, *Grus americana*: Regular, I-S

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family Charadriidae: Plovers

Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*: Regular, I-S
American Golden-Plover, *Pluvialis dominicus*: Regular, I-S
Snowy Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Casual, I-S
Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*: Regular, I-S
Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*: Regular, I-S
Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*: Regular, I-S
Mountain Plover, *Charadrius montanus*: Casual, I-S

Family Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S
American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*: Regular, I-S
Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*: Regular, I-S
Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*: Regular, I-S
Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*: Regular, I-S
Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*: Regular, I-S
Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*: Regular, I-S
Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*: Extirpated, I-S
Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*: Casual, I-S

Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus*: Regular, I-S
Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*: Regular, I-S
Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa*: Regular, I-S
Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*: Regular, I-S
Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*: Casual, I-P
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*: Regular, I-S
Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*: Regular, I-S
Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*: Regular, I-S
Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*: Regular, I-S
White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*: Regular, I-S
Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*: Regular, I-S
Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*: Regular, I-S
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*: Accidental, III
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*: Regular, I-S
Stilt Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*: Regular, I-S
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*: Regular, I-S
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*: Accidental, I-P
Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*: Casual, I-S
Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*: Regular, I-S
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*: Regular, I-S
American Woodcock, *Scolopax minor*: Regular, I-S
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*: Regular, I-S
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*: Regular, I-S
Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicaria*: Casual, I-S

Family Laridae: Gulls and Terns

Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*: Accidental, I-S
Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*: Accidental, I-S
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*: Accidental, I-S
Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*: Casual, I-P
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*: Regular, I-S
Little Gull, *Larus minutus*: Accidental, I-P
Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*: Accidental, III
Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*: Regular, I-S
Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: Accidental, I-P
Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*: Regular, I-S
California Gull, *Larus californicus*: Regular, I-S
Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*: Regular, I-S
Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*: Casual, I-P
Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*: Casual, I-P
Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*: Casual, I-P
Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*: Accidental, I-P
Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*: Regular, I-P
Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Casual, I-P
Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*: Casual, I-S
Ross' Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*: Accidental, I-P
Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*: Accidental, I-S
Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*: Regular, I-S
Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*: Regular, I-S
Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*: Regular, I-S
Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*: Regular, I-S
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*: Regular, I-S

Family Alcidae: Auks, Murres, and Allies

Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*: Accidental, I-S

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove, *Columba livia*: Regular, I-S
Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*: Accidental, III
White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*: Accidental, I-P
Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*: Regular, I-S
Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*: Extinct, I-S
Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*: Accidental, I-P
Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*: Accidental, III

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family Psittacidae: Parrots

Carolina Parakeet, *Conuropsis carolinensis*: Extinct, I-S

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*: Regular, I-S
Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Accidental, I-P

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family Tytonidae Barn Owls

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*: Regular, I-S

Family Strigidae: Typical Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl, *Otus asio*: Regular, I-S
Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*: Regular, I-S
Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*: Regular, I-S
Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*: Accidental, I-S
Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia*: Regular, I-S
Barred Owl, *Strix varia*: Regular, I-S
Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa*: Accidental, I-S
Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*: Regular, I-S
Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*: Regular, I-S
Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*: Accidental, I-S
Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*: Regular, I-S

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Family Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*: Regular, I-S
Common Poorwill, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*: Regular, I-S
Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*: Regular, I-P
Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*: Regular, I-S

Order APODIFORMES

Family Apodidae: Swifts

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*: Regular, I-S
White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatalis*: Regular, I-S

Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*: Regular, I-S
Calliope Hummingbird, *Stellula calliope*: Accidental, I-P
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, *Selasphorus platycercus*: Casual, I-P
Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*: Casual, I-S

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*: Regular, I-S

Order PICIFORMES

Family Picidae: Woodpeckers

Lewis' Woodpecker, *Melanerpes lewis*: Regular, I-S
Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*: Accidental, I-P
Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*: Regular, I-S
Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*: Accidental, I-S
Williamson's Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*: Accidental, I-S
Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*: Regular, I-S
Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*: Regular, I-S
Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*: Accidental, I-S
Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*: Regular, I-S
Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*: Accidental, I-P

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus borealis*: Regular, I-S
Western Wood-Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*: Regular, I-S
Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*: Casual, I-S
Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*: Regular, I-S
Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*: Regular, I-R
Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*: Regular, I-R
Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*: Regular, I-S
Hammond's Flycatcher, *Empidonax hammondi*: Accidental, I-S
Cordilleran Flycatcher, *Empidonax occidentalis*: Casual, I-R
Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*: Regular, I-S
Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*: Regular, I-S
Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Accidental, I-P
Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*: Accidental, III
Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*: Regular, I-S
Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*: Regular, I-S
Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*: Regular, I-S
Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*: Regular, I-S
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*: Casual, I-P

Family Alaudidae: Larks

Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*: Regular, I-S

Family Hirundinidae: Swallows

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*: Regular, I-S
Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*: Regular, I-S
Violet-green Swallow, *Tachycineta thalassina*: Regular, I-S
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*: Regular, I-S
Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*: Regular, I-S
Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota*: Regular, I-S
Cave Swallow, *Hirundo fulva*: Accidental, I-P
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*: Regular, I-S

Family Corvidae: Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*: Accidental, III
Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*: Accidental, I-S
Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*: Regular, I-S
Pinyon Jay, *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana*: Casual, I-S
Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*: Regular, I-S
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*: Regular, I-S
Chihuahuan Raven, *Corvus cryptoleucus*: Accidental, I-S
Common Raven, *Corvus corax*: Accidental, III

Family Paridae: Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*: Regular, I-S
Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli*: Accidental, I-P
Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*: Regular, I-S

Family Sittidae: Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*: Regular, I-S
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*: Regular, I-S
Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*: Regular, I-S

Family Certhiidae: Creepers

Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Troglodytidae: Wrens

Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*: Regular, I-S
Canyon Wren, *Catherpes mexicanus*: Accidental, I-P
Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S
Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*: Casual, I-P
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*: Regular, I-S
Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*: Regular, I-S
Sedge Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*: Regular, I-S
Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus palustris*: Regular, I-S

Family Cinclidae: Dippers

American Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*: Accidental, I-S

Family Muscicapidae: Kinglets, Thrushes and Allies

Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*: Regular, I-S
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*: Regular, I-S
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila caerulea*: Regular, I-S
Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*: Regular, I-S
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*: Regular, I-S
Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*: Regular, I-S
Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*: Regular, I-S
Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*: Regular, I-S
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*: Regular, I-S
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*: Regular, I-S
Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*: Regular, I-S
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*: Regular, I-S
Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*: Casual, I-S

Family Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*: Regular, I-S
Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*: Regular, I-S

Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*: Casual, I-S
Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*: Regular, I-S
Curve-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma curvirostre*: Accidental, I-S

Family Motacillidae: Pipits

American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*: Regular, I-S
Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*: Casual, I-S

Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*: Casual, I-S
Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*: Regular, I-S

Family Ptilogonatidae: Silky-flycatchers

Phainopepla, *Phainopepla nitens*: Accidental, I-P

Family Laniidae: Shrikes

Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*: Regular, I-S
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S

Family Sturnidae: Starlings

European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*: Regular, I-S

Family Vireonidae: Vireos

White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*: Casual, I-S
Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*: Regular, I-S
Black-capped Vireo, *Vireo atricapillus*: Accidental, I-S
Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*: Regular, I-S
Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*: Regular, I-S
Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*: Regular, I-S
Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*: Regular, I-S

Family Emberizidae: Wood-Warblers, Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks,
Buntings, Towhees, Sparrows, Longspurs, Meadowlarks,
Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

subfamily Parulinae: Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*: Casual, I-S
Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*: Regular, I-S
Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*: Regular, I-S
Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*: Regular, I-S
Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*: Regular, I-S
Virginia's Warbler, *Vermivora virginiae*: Accidental, III
Northern Parula, *Parula americana*: Regular, I-S
Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*: Regular, I-S
Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*: Regular, I-S
Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*: Regular, I-S
Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*: Casual, I-S
Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*: Casual, I-S
Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*: Regular, I-S
Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*: Casual, I-S
Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*: Regular, I-S
Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*: Regular, I-P

pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*: Casual, I-P
prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*: Accidental, I-P
palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*: Regular, I-S
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*: Regular, I-S
Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*: Regular, I-S
cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*: Regular, I-S
Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*: Regular, I-S
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*: Regular, I-S
prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*: Regular, I-S
Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*: Casual, I-P
Swainson's Warbler, *Limothlypis swainsonii*: Accidental, I-S
Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*: Regular, I-S
Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*: Regular, I-S
Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*: Regular, I-S
Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*: Regular, I-S
Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*: Regular, I-P
Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*: Regular, I-S
MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*: Regular, I-S
Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*: Regular, I-S
Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*: Casual, I-S
Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*: Regular, I-S
Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Thraupinae: Tanagers

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*: Regular, I-S
Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*: Regular, I-S
Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Cardinalinae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*: Regular, I-S
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S
Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*: Regular, I-S
Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*: Regular, I-S
Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*: Regular, I-S
Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris*: Accidental, I-S
Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Emberizinae: Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus*: Casual, I-S
Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*: Regular, I-S
Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*: Regular, I-S
Cassin's Sparrow, *Aimophila cassinii*: Casual, I-P
American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*: Regular, I-S
Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*: Regular, I-S
Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*: Regular, I-S
Brewer's Sparrow, *Spizella breweri*: Regular, I-S
Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*: Regular, I-S
Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*: Regular, I-S
Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*: Regular, I-S
Black-throated Sparrow, *Amphispiza bilineata*: Accidental, I-P
Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza belli*: Accidental, III
Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*: Regular, I-S
Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*: Regular, I-S
Baird's Sparrow, *Ammodramus bairdii*: Accidental, I-S
Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*: Regular, I-S
Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*: Casual, I-S

Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii*: Regular, I-S
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus nelsoni*: Casual, I-S
Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*: Regular, I-S
Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*: Regular, I-S
Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolni*: Regular, I-S
Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*: Regular, I-S
White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*: Regular, I-S
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*: Accidental, I-P
White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*: Regular, I-S
Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*: Regular, I-S
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*: Regular, I-S
McCown's Longspur, *Calcarius mccownii*: Regular, I-S
Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*: Regular, I-S
Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*: Accidental, I-S
Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*: Regular, I-S
Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Icterinae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*: Regular, I-S
Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*: Regular, I-S
Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*: Regular, I-S
Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*: Regular, I-S
Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*: Regular, I-S
Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*: Regular, I-S
Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S
Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*: Regular, I-S
Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*: Regular, I-S
Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*: Regular, I-S
Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*: Regular, I-S
Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*: Regular, I-S

Family Fringillidae: Finches

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, *Leucosticte tephrocotis*: Casual, I-S
Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*: Accidental, I-S
Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*: Regular, I-S
Cassin's Finch, *Carpodacus cassinii*: Regular, I-S
House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S
Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*: Regular, I-S
White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*: Casual, I-S
Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*: Regular, I-S
Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*: Accidental, I-P
Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*: Regular, I-S
Lesser Goldfinch, *Carduelis psaltria*: Accidental, I-P
American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*: Regular, I-S
Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus*: Regular, I-S

Family Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*: Regular, I-S

WINTER FIELD REPORT, DECEMBER 1996-FEBRUARY 1997

Compiled by

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INTRODUCTION

First, we wish to thank Larry Malone (LKM) for his excellent and detailed reports over the last 3 years or so. The reporting from western Nebraska has been greatly enhanced through Larry's efforts. Larry has retired from his position as Superintendent of NPNWR and CLNWR and we wish him luck.

Interesting features of this winter report include a few rarities such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater Yellowlegs, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Inca Dove, a "montane invasion" of such species as Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, and Cassin's Finch, birds rare in midwinter such as Red-breasted Merganser and Orange-crowned Warbler, unusually good numbers of regular winterers such as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting, and a continuation of the ever-more-complex gull identification situation at LM, which is looking more like the west coast each winter.

ABBREVIATIONS

Initials in parentheses refer to the observers, listed at the end of this report. * = documentation submitted and passed to NOU Records Committee. Please refer to Nebraska Bird Review 54:74 for information about writing documentations, and the Official List of Birds of Nebraska (NBR 65: 3-16, this issue) for birds which should be documented. It is also important to document birds which are out-of-season. The best current source of early and late occurrence dates is Dr. Paul Johnsgard's "The Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States" reprinted in 1997 and available from the author at UNL.

ad = adult; **ADF** = Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co; **BOL** = Branched Oak L SRA, Lancaster Co; **CBC** = Christmas Bird Count; **Cem** = Cemetery; **CLNWR** = Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co; **Co(s)** = County(ies); **FFNC** = Fontenelle Forest Nature Center; **HCR** = Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co; **imm** = immature; **juv** = juvenile; **L** = Lake; **LM** = L McConaughy, Keith Co; **mob** = many observers; **NBR** = Nebraska Bird Review; **NC** = Nature Center; **NE** = Nebraska; **NNF** = Nebraska National Forest; **NOURC** = Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee; **NPNWR** = North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **R** = River; **Res** = Reservoir; **RWB** = Rainwater Basin, an area of Federal, State, and private basins and wetlands mainly in Phelps, Kearney, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, and York Cos; **SHP** = State Historical Park; **SL** = Sewage Lagoons; **SP** = State Park; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **UNL** = University of Nebraska-Lincoln; **UNSM** = University of Nebraska State Museum; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area (State); **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area (Federal).

GAZETTEER

Arbor Lodge: SHP, Otoe Co; **Blue Creek**: Garden Co; **Carter Canyon**: Scotts Bluff Co; **Clear Creek Marsh**: SRA/WMA, Garden/Keith Cos; **Ft. Kearny**: SHP, Kearney Co; **Funk Lagoon**: WPA, Phelps Co; **Grandpa's Steakhouse L**: Buffalo Co; **Holmes L**: Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **Indian Cave SP**: Nemaha/Richardson Cos; **James Ranch**: Fort Robinson SP, Sioux Co; **Johnson L**: SRA, Gosper/Dawson Cos; **Keystone Diversion**

Dam: L Ogallala, Keith Co; **Kingsley Dam:** LM, Keith Co; **L Alice:** NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **L Ogallala:** Keith Co; **Monroe Canyon:** Sioux Co; **Offutt Base L:** Sarpy Co; **Pawnee L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Pawnee Prairie:** SRA, Pawnee Co; **Peterson WPA:** Gosper Co; **Pine Ridge:** escarpment of ponderosa pine in extreme nw NE; **Stateline Island:** WMA, Scotts Bluff Co; **Sutherland Res:** Lincoln Co; **Valentine NWR:** Cherry Co; **Wildcat Hills NC:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Wild Rose Ranch:** Hall Co; **Wolf L:** Saunders Co.

Pied-billed Grebe: A single bird at Offutt Base L 1-4 Dec was the only individual to be recorded during the period.

Western Grebe: Rare away from LM during the period, a pair lingered at Offutt Base L. until 13 Dec (BP,LP). At LM, 4 were found on 28 Dec (SJD,JS). This is a rather low count compared to previous years, likely due to a cold Dec.

American White Pelican: The cooling lake at Sutherland Res. is the only locale in the state where voluntary overwintering is attempted and has been successful. This year 4 birds were found there on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS) and all made it through the worst part of winter, as they were observed again on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS). Curious was a single at HCR on 2 Feb (RH,LR). This bird was not present earlier in the season as this lake was well-covered on 13-16 Dec for the local CBC.

Double-crested Cormorant: A good early Dec tally was 20 at HCR on 1 Dec (RH,LR). Only 1 was there on 13 Dec (JGJ) and none on the HCR CBC 16 Dec. Other lingering birds include 2 at Offutt Base L. 1-4 Dec (BP,LP), 2 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH), and a single at Sutherland Res. on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS). None were found in Jan or Feb.

Great Blue Heron: Overall, fewer birds may have overwintered and all reports were from the Platte R valley south. The species went unrecorded at Wolf L for the first time in 20 years (TH). Mid-winter reports include 1 at BOL on 2 Jan (LE), 1 at Stateline Island on 8 Jan (LKM), 2-3 at NPNWR on 16-29 Jan (LKM,LK), and 2 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM).

Trumpeter Swan: Reports from the west are as follows: a pair was in the North Platte R, below Kingsley Dam on 28 Dec (SJD,JS), up to 8 were at L. Ogallala on 1-15 Feb (LKM,JGJ,WRS), and 9 were noted in Blue Creek on 30 Jan (LKM). Unexpected in the east, 2 birds with neck collars were at Wolf L. 18 Jan-16 Feb (TH). According to TH, who looked into the matter, these birds were released at Storm Lake, Iowa, in the fall.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Latest southbound migrants were 30 at Grandpa's Steakhouse L. on 7 Dec (LR,RH). No others were reported until 16 Feb, when 100 flew over Buffalo Co. (RH,LR).

Snow Goose: Small numbers were noted at several locales during Dec. Jan reports include 538 recorded on the Omaha CBC and 1 on 30 Jan in Garden Co. Spring migrants were detected in late Feb: two observers (LR,RH) were able to watch "wave after wave" arrive at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb, totalling an estimated 200,000 birds.

Ross' Goose: The only reports were from Grandpa's Steakhouse L., where 11 were found on 7 Dec (LR,RH) and 1 was found on 4 Jan (LR,RH).

Canada Goose: Large numbers winter in the Platte valley from about Kearney west. Good counts include 30,575 at NPNWR on 16 Dec (LK), 15,000 at Sutherland Res on 16 Dec (SJD,WRS), and 36,900 on the Kearney CBC on 21 Dec (LR,RH). In the east, a few thousand were noted in Lancaster Co. during the period (LE) and 617 were tallied on the Omaha CBC.

Wood Duck: Rather far north was a female in sw Dixon Co. on 8 Dec (JJ). A good count was 8 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan. Other reports include 1 in Sarpy Co 26 Jan (DS), 1 at Holmes L. on 12 Feb (LE),

and 1 at HCR on 2 Feb (LR,RH).

Green-winged Teal: A few were found statewide during Dec and the species returned in late Feb. There were no Jan reports and the only mid-winter report was of 6 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH).

American Black Duck: No reports were received.

Mallard: Good counts include 9,009 on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), 52,636 at NPNWR on 16 Dec (LK), 10,000 on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (AK), 20,000 at Sutherland Res. on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS), and 10,000 at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

Northern Pintail: A few were noted in Dec at several locales. The only Jan report was 4 at BOL on 18 Jan (BP,LP). Spring migrants begin drifting north in early Feb and migration is well under way during the latter half of that month; evidence of this is 10,000 at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

Northern Shoveler: The only report was from Sarpy Co. on 2 Feb (DS); this species is rare in midwinter.

Gadwall: Dec reports include 4 at Wolf L. on 21 Dec (TH) and 1 on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). The only Jan reports were of 1-3 at NPNWR on 15-16 Jan (LKM) and in Sarpy Co 4 Jan (DS). Northbound migrants were detected in late Feb.

American Wigeon: This species was well reported this winter. High counts include 40 west of Scottsbluff on 21 Dec. and 60 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 7 Feb (LKM). Jan reports include 2 at BOL on 18 Jan (BP,LP) and in Sarpy Co 4 Jan (DS). Northbound migrants were detected in late Feb.

Canvasback: The only reports were of returning birds during the latter half of Feb, with the highest count being 256 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

Redhead: The only reports before Feb were singles at both BOL 18 Jan (BP,LP) and the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). High count of spring migrants was 213 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

Ring-necked Duck: Earliest, and the best count, was 25 at BOL on 18 Feb (LE). All other reports are as follows: 7 were at Wolf L. on 22 Feb (TH) and 3 at Ft. Kearny on 23 Feb (LR,RH).

Greater Scaup: The only report was of a pair at Sutherland Res. on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS).

Lesser Scaup: Good Dec and Jan counts include 15 at Grandpa's Steakhouse L. on 7 Dec (LR,RH), 9 at the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), and 6 at the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan. Small numbers arrived in late Feb.

Oldsquaw: The only report of this rare winter visitor was a female at LM on 28 Dec (SJD).

Common Goldeneye: High counts of wintering birds include 350 at Johnson L. on 4 Jan (LR,RH) and 430 at Sutherland Res. and LM 1 Feb (LKM).

Barrow's Goldeneye: This species should be looked for with Commons in the North Platte valley. A pair was found on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS) at L. Ogallala, the first report from the LM area since 1991 (Rosché 1994, Birds of LM).

Bufflehead: Singles or pairs were noted at HCR on 13 Dec (JGJ), Johnson L on 14 Dec (LR,RH), and Offutt Base L on 13 Dec (BP,LP). The only mid-winter report was 8 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM). A few returning birds were detected in late Feb, including the season's best count of 27 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

Hooded Merganser: Only report was a single at Holmes L. on 12 Feb (LEI).

Common Merganser: An estimated 12,000 at HCR on 1 Dec (LR,RH) nearly doubled to an estimated 23,071 on 15 Dec (JGJ). A cold Dec may have been the impetus for the growth in numbers at HCR, forcing birds south that were to the north. Cold weather and a nearby frozen lake is also the likely reason that only 4,000 were recorded

at LM on 28 Dec (SJD,JS).

Red-breasted Merganser: Overwintering is not expected, but a determined female apparently did so at L. Ogallala, as it was found with Common Mergansers on 28 Dec (SJD) and 15 Feb (JGJ).

Bald Eagle: Notable concentrations include 45 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH), 176 at HCR on 4 Jan (LR,RH), and 218 at LM and Sutherland Res on 1 Feb (LKM). Respectable away from a major reservoir was the count of 23 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan.

Northern Harrier: Moderate numbers were encountered throughout the period in the south, with the best count being 13 at HCR on 13 Dec (JGJ). One pair of observers (LR,RH) were able to tally 22 in eight counties during the period. A report from Knox Co. on 2 Feb (MB), was the only report from n of the Platte R valley.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Up to 17 were recorded in eleven counties. None were recorded in the north-central or Pine Ridge.

Cooper's Hawk: In contrast to the preceding, only 3 were found in three counties. Singles were found in Buffalo Co. on 11 Jan (LR,RH), in Lancaster Co. on 17 Jan (LE), and on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM).

Northern Goshawk: No reports were received.

Red-tailed Hawk: Notable concentrations include 53 counted on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 47 counted on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ).

Ferruginous Hawk: Even though this species is expected to be found in winter near prairie dog towns, 7 at one town west of Kearney on 8 Dec (LR,RH) is a superb count. All other reports include singles in Franklin Co. on 1 Dec (LR,RH), at HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), in Scotts Bluff Co. on 21 Dec (LKM), in Harlan Co. on 26 Dec (LR,RH), in Morrill Co. on 28 Dec (BFH,MB), in Cherry Co. on 29 Dec (BFH,MB), and at LM on 1 Feb (LKM).

Rough-legged Hawk: Words such as common, ubiquitous, and numerous were used to describe this species' occurrence in the north and west. Up to 25 were tallied in sw Sioux Co. on 27 Dec (SJD,WRS,JS), 35 were found along the road from Neligh to North Platte on 27 Dec (BFH,MB), and 10 were noted at Valentine NWR on 31 Dec (JGJ,GEJ). Small numbers were found in the east and south.

Golden Eagle: Best count from the pandhandle was 3 tallied on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM). The only report away from the pandhandle was 2 at HCR on 12 Jan (LR,RH).

American Kestrel: Best counts include 23 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 8 on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM).

Merlin: Singles were noted in Buffalo Co. on 7 Dec (LR,RH), Harlan Co. on 15 Dec (JGJ), Pierce Co. on 21 Dec (MB), Morrill Co. on 28 Dec (MB), Sioux Co. on 29 Dec (BFH,MB), and Garden Co. 8 Jan-2 Feb (MF), and two were noted in Kearney Co. on 18 Jan (LR,RH).

Prairie Falcon: Most easterly was a single, whose black axillars were noted, east of Tekamah on 21 Dec (JGJ). Two observers (LR,RH) found 4 in the south-central during the period, including two in Webster Co. on 31 Dec. A final easterly report is from Knox Co. on 2 Feb (MB). In addition, 4 were found from Keith Co. westward.

Gray Partridge: No reports were received, which is not a surprise in light of this species' current population crash.

Ring-necked Pheasant: A respectable panhandle count was 27 in Morrill and Cheyenne Cos. on 13 Jan (LKM), but that count is eclipsed by 200+ in Dixon Co. on 6 Dec (JJ).

Greater Prairie-chicken: This species is proving to be more numerous in the south-central than previously thought. In recent years, Randolph (LR) and Harding (RH) have brought to light the existence of isolated populations in remnant sandhills in Kearney Co and adjacent Adams Co. Also, in Dec birds were found at HCR where large tracts of grassland exist in the arroyos in the Republican R drainage, offering suitable habitat for the species.

A covey of 15 was found on 13 Dec (JGJ) near the HCR dam and 7 were found at the other end of the lake on 15 Dec (WRS). Since this species is known to wander in fall and winter, a follow-up would be needed in summer to provide evidence of breeding in the area.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: A good count was 56 at and around Valentine NWR on 31 Dec (JGJ,GEJ).

Wild Turkey: Notable counts include 64 in Carter Canyon on 29 Jan (LKM) and 37 tallied on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan.

Northern Bobwhite: Only 8 were tallied on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 9 on 16 Dec was the best count from ADF (LF,CF), while 35 were found in a single covey in Kearney Co on 18 Jan (LR,RH) and 15 were tallied on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). Much of the non-agricultural land in the far east is succeeding to more mature woodland and quality brush habitat appears to be minimal. Are higher densities of this species now found away from the Missouri R valley, especially in the south?

Virginia Rail: A single lingered at CLNWR to 1 Dec (MF). At a more traditional winter locale were 8 in late Dec at Clear Creek Marsh near Lewellen (SJD,WRS,JS).

American Coot: A late bird was noted at Grandpa's Steakhouse L on 7 Dec (LR,RH) and the first spring migrant was detected at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

Sandhill Crane: First arrivals were 50 in Kearney Co. on 16 Feb (LR,RH) and 1000 there on 23 Feb (LF,CF).

Killdeer: As many as 10 were tallied along the North Platte R below the Keystone Diversion Dam on 28 Dec (SJD,JS), dropping to 3 on 1 Feb (LKM), and none were found on a quick check on 15 Feb (JGJ). A single was also found at NPNWR from 14 Jan-7 Feb (LKM). Likely a spring migrant was 1 at BOL 18 Feb (LE).

Greater Yellowlegs: A surprise find was a single at Stateline Island on 14 Jan (LKM). This is the first Jan report for this species and the first between 28 Dec and 3 Mar.

Common Snipe: A single at Scottsbluff on 21 Dec (LKM,AK) and 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH) likely wintered. In addition, 2 were at Stateline Island on 7 Feb (LKM).

Franklin's Gull: A very eager adult was at BOL on 23 Feb (JGJ).

Mew Gull: An adult at BOL, first observed and photographed on 1 Dec (JGJ), remained until 5 Dec (BP,LP*). This will likely become the third state record as well as the third 1996 record, although all three still await NOURC approval.

Ring-billed Gull: This species is numerous on either side of Jan. Good Dec counts were 1000 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH) and 467 at HCR on 15 Dec (JGJ). Good Feb counts include 250 at LM on 1 Feb, 450 at HCR on 22 Feb (LF,CF), and 500 at Pawnee L. on 23 Feb (JGJ).

California Gull: An adult on 13 Dec (JGJ) and a first-winter on 15 Dec (WRS) at HCR represent only the 4th and 5th reports east of Cherry and Lincoln Cos. An adult was with Herring Gulls at Sutherland Res on 27 Dec (BFH). Only 1-2 were at LM on 28 Dec (JGJ,BFH), but 20 were tallied on 1 Feb (LKM), dropping back to 1 on 15 Feb (JGJ).

Herring Gull: Respectable Dec counts include 446 at HCL on 15 Dec (JGJ) and 100 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH). The 220 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM) grew to 400 on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS).

Thayer's Gull: Despite able and cautious observers, hard evidence (i.e. specimens, photographs) of this species' regular occurrence in the state is lacking, as most documented reports involve descriptions. Identification of "light end birds" i.e. birds tending towards Iceland Gull, can be tricky, as can that of "dark end birds", those resembling pale Herring Gulls. Single first-winter birds were well-studied at BOL on 8 Dec (MB), HCR on 15 Dec (WRS,JGJ) and Sutherland Res. on 27 Dec (SJD,WRS). At least one

first-winter and an apparent fourth-winter were at L. Ogallala on 15 Dec (JGJ,WRS).

Iceland Gull: A standoff, with good cases made by each camp, involved the identity of a first-winter bird at BOL on 1-5 Dec. The gull in question appeared much like a first-winter Glaucous Gull present, except that it was markedly smaller and the division between the pink and black on the bill was not clean-cut. One pair of observers believed it to be an Iceland Gull (BP,LP), while another pair thought it to be a Glaucous Gull of one of the smaller subspecies, such as *barrovianus* (WRS,JGJ). Distinguishing these possibilities has bedeviled west coast birders for some time. NOURC will attempt to sort this one out, but resolution may not be possible.

Glaucous Gull: Still rare, but regular in the east, 1-2 (see preceding) were at BOL on 1-5 Dec (JGJ,WRS,BP,LP). Up to 5 were tallied at the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), providing the best count to date away from the reservoirs of the western Platte valley. At LM, 7 were counted on 1 Feb (LKM) and 9, including 2 adults, were there on 15 Feb (WRS,JGJ). Up to 4 first-winters were tallied at Sutherland Res on 26-27 Dec (BFH,SJD,WRS).

Great Black-backed Gull: A second-winter was present at L. Ogallala on 15 Feb (WRS,JGJ). This is plausibly the same individual present last winter and in Aug.

Glaucous-winged X Western Gull?: Of interest to gull-watchers was the presence of two Herring Gull-sized first-winter gulls, which are as likely to be this hybrid or a related backcross as either of two other equally intriguing possibilities at L. Ogallala on 16 Feb (JGJ,WRS). The two, essentially identical and possibly siblings, could be described as giant, pale Thayer's Gulls but lacking checkering on their tertials. A series of slides were reviewed by three west coast experts, who all came to different conclusions. Potential identities of the gulls include Slaty-backed or introgressants of Glaucous-winged and Herring or Glaucous-winged and Western. These individuals, along with the Iceland/Glaucous Gull (see above), illustrate the minefield that is gull identification on the west coast and apparently now posing similar problems on the northern Great Plains.

Rock Dove: Best count was 150 in Lincoln 10 Jan (LE).

Mourning Dove: All reports were from the extreme se, best count a remarkable midwinter tally of 270 n of Lincoln (LE). An excellent 60 were recorded on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan.

Inca Dove: Nebraska's 4th (see Fall) was noted at the Uridil feeder in Chadron 14 Nov (ZU); the last date noted in the Fall Report was 6 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine.

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine.

Snowy Owl: The only report was of 1 seen on an "igloo-shaped" church building in Kearney 3 Dec (LR,RH). Must have felt at home!

Barred Owl: The only report was from an expected location in Sarpy Co (DS).

Long-eared Owl: There were only 3 reports: 5 were at a roost 7 mi n of Lincoln through the period (DS), 1 was at ADF 3 Dec (LF,CF), and 1 was in Stanton Co 21 Dec (MB).

Short-eared Owl: The only midwinter report was of 2 birds 3 mi s of Peterson WPA 26 Jan (LR,RH). Dec reports were of 1 at CLNWR 17 Dec (LKM) and another in Cass Co 1 Dec (GW et al).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A fresh road-kill was picked up at mile marker 121.5 just east of Ash Hollow SHP on 28 Dec (MB,BFH). This was the only report for this species.

Belted Kingfisher: Likely to winter anywhere if open water is present, a midwinter report of interest was of 1 at Blue Creek 6

Feb (LKM), a stream which stays open all winter and harbors wintering Trumpeter Swans.

Red-headed Woodpecker: As is expected in midwinter if any remain, reports were from the extreme se, singles in Saunders Co 4 Jan (DS), Cass Co 22 Jan (GW et al), and Otoe Co on 9 Feb (LF,CF).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: None were reported w of Saunders Co.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Like Red-headed Woodpecker, wintering birds are usual during the period only in the extreme se; there were 3 reports, more than usual in midwinter: 1 wintered at ADF (LF,CF), 1 was reported on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan, and 2 were at Arbor Lodge 31 Jan (BP,LP).

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Northern Flicker: None were reported between 7 Dec and 17 Feb; these birds are scarcest in midwinter.

Horned Lark: Best count was 5275 around LM 28 Dec (LR,RH).

Stellar's Jay: Leading off a great array of invading montane species this winter were 2 cooperative birds which appeared during the fall period in Carter Canyon and remained there through the winter period (mob). For a time, only 1 was present; the other may have been the bird seen at Mitchell 16 Jan (AK). This occurrence is about the 30th for this species in Nebraska.

Blue Jay: Now rather common throughout the Platte valley, if not everywhere in the state, 23 were counted on the Scotts Bluff CBC 21 Dec.

Pinyon Jay: The numbers reported, higher than in average winters, suggested that this species was involved in the general invasion of Scotts Bluff Co by montane species. Best count was 125 along the White River in Sioux Co 29 Dec (JGJ,GEJ), while up to 41 frequented the exciting Wildcat Hills NC feeders through the period (SJD, mob). Most significant report was of a single bird which attended feeders at the Dummer and Rumery residences in Kearney through the period (LR,RH).

Clark's Nutcracker: This is another montane species which appeared this winter. First were up to 6 present in Monroe Canyon 29-30 Dec (MB,BFH,JGJ,GEJ). These birds probably came from the Black Hills of South Dakota, but provenance of 1-2 in Morrill Co 11 Jan (AK) through 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH) is less obvious.

Black-billed Magpie: Recently appearing regularly around BOL, 1 was there 6 Dec (LE), also the most easterly reported. Best count was only 25, those at HCR 12 Jan (LR,RH).

American Crow: Best count was a modest 90 at BOL 31 Jan (LE).

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Mountain Chickadee: The influx noted in fall continued through the winter period. Surprisingly far to the east was 1 at the KNOP TV station's feeder in North Platte at least 4-6 Dec (NR,BP,LP). This species reached Lincoln Co during the 1968-69 invasion, when the most easterly Nebraska report, from Dawson Co in early 1969, was made. Best count was up to 5 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders through the period (mob). The other report received was of 1 in Gering 4 Dec (AK).

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were from regular locations in Sarpy and Cass Cos.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The many reports received totalled only about 22 birds, rather routine. Best count was 8 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders (surprise!) 3 Jan (LKM). Reports were statewide.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were routine; none from areas where breeding does not occur.

Pygmy Nuthatch: This species was common this winter, indicating an influx of non-resident birds, especially on the Pine Ridge. Best counts were 38 in the Sioux Co Pine Ridge 29 Dec (SJD) and 21 in

Monroe Canyon 29 Dec (JGJ). Up to 6 were at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders throughout (mob), a not unusual number for the location. **Brown Creeper:** Reports were from the se, where best count was 6 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 21 Dec (LE), except for 1 bird at the Gering Cem 4 Dec (LKM). Creepers are uncommon in fall and rare in winter in the panhandle away from the Pine Ridge.

Carolina Wren: Only 2 reports were received: 1 was in Cass Co 1 Dec (GW et al) and another was at ADF throughout (LF,CF). Reports of this species have declined recently.

Winter Wren: The only report was of 1 at Indian Cave SP 1Feb (WRS). Few overwinter.

Marsh Wren: This species winters regularly in the LM area, but also apparently around springs in Scotts Bluff Co; 1 was observed there 28 Jan (LKM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Several wintered in the se; 4 were counted on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan, and 3 were at ADF 23 Jan (LF,CF). Furthest w were singles at Wild Rose Ranch 12 and 28 Dec (TEL).

Eastern Bluebird: Reports were from Buffalo and Franklin Cos southeastward. A good midwinter count was 9 in nw Franklin Co 2 Feb (LR,RH).

Mountain Bluebird: The only report of this species, Nebraska's best candidate for an "altitudinal migrant", was 10 around LM 28 Dec (BFH). Wintering is regular in the Platte valley as far east as se Lincoln Co.

Townsend's Solitaire: Rather far e was 1 at Wolf L 8 Dec (TH). Elsewhere, best count was a modest 13 around LM 1 Feb (LKM).

American Robin: An excellent midwinter count was 475 at Wolf L 3 Jan (TH). Returning flocks were noted at Nebraska City 17 Feb, when 55 were counted (LF,CF).

Gray Catbird: Chuck and Joan Dummer reported 1 in their Kearney yard 5 Jan (fide LR,RH). No details were provided. The only other midwinter report for the state is 7-8 Feb 1993 in Douglas Co (AB 42:273).

Brown Thrasher: The only report for the period was 1 in Kearney 21 Dec on the CBC. Dec reports are rare, but not unusual in s and e Nebraska.

Bohemian Waxwing: A beautiful sight were 362 flying around Harrison 29 Dec (SJD, mob). Few have been reported in recent years. A smaller group, 10 birds, were at LeMoyne on LM 28 Dec (JGJ,GEJ).

Cedar Waxwing: Best count among the statewide reports was 255 at Wolf L 21 Dec; 220 were there 4 Jan also (TH). Reports were about average.

Northern Shrike: Several reports were received, indicating a good year for this species. Furthest se were 1 in Sarpy Co 11 Jan (DS), 2 in Lancaster Co 6 Dec (LE), and 1 at BOL 18 Jan (BP,LP).

Loggerhead Shrike: The only reports were from Cass Co; none were reported in midwinter, when most depart the state. Singles were in Cass Co 1 Dec (LP,BP) and 23 Jan (GW et al).

European Starling: Best count among the statewide reports was 475 at NPNWR 16 Jan (LKM). Rather lonely at an unexpected midwinter location was 1 at CLNWR 12 Jan (MF).

Orange-crowned Warbler: No details were received with a report of 1 on the UNL East Campus, Lincoln, 21 Dec (LE). This would be the latest ever by over a month, although it was described as "wintering as far north as Omaha" without details in 1979-80 (AB 34:287).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Dec reports from the se are not unusual, but 1 at North Platte 6 Dec (BP,LP) was rather far west at that date.

Northern Cardinal: Best count was a modest 20 in n Lancaster Co 10 Feb (LE), while the small Scotts Bluff Co population continues: 2 were seen 21 Dec (AK), hopefully male and female.

Spotted Towhee: All towhees reported were this species; most Easterns leave in midwinter. As many as 4 were as far e as Lancaster Co 21 Dec (LE).

American Tree Sparrow: Best counts were 300 in Otoe Co 9 Feb (LF,CF) and 280 in Lancaster Co 10 Feb (LE).

Song Sparrow: Wintering statewide wherever water remains open, a good midwinter count was 9 at NPNWR 16 Jan (LKM).

Swamp Sparrow: One of only a handful of midwinter panhandle reports was 1 at Stateline Island 7 Feb (LKM). This species is rare anywhere in the state in midwinter, with most reports from the se. Less unusual was 1 at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ).

White-throated Sparrow: Furthest w were 1 wintering in a yard near Gibbon (LR,RH) and another at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ). Most wintering reports are from the se.

White-crowned Sparrow: No large counts were received; most are s of Nebraska in midwinter. Scotts Bluff Co hosted 4 on 21 Dec (LKM) and singles were at BOL 18 Jan (LP,BP) and 12 Feb (LE).

Harris' Sparrow: Rare in the northwest, 1 was at a feeder in Chadron 11 Dec (ZU, photo). Other reports were from the s and e, with best counts an excellent 95 in Otoe Co 1 Jan (LF,CF) and 50 in Lincoln 21 Dec (LE).

Dark-eyed Junco: Observers should note, if possible, the plumage type of juncos; treat them as though they were different species! Observers in the e generally do not differentiate types, probably because most are "Slate-colored". No "Oregon" Juncos were reported e of Hall Co, where 1 was seen at Wild Rose Ranch 12 Dec (TEL). "White-winged" Juncos were at the James Ranch feeders through the period (SL). Best counts of "Dark-eyed" were 350 in Otoe Co 9 Feb (LF,CF) and 75 at BOL 10 Feb (LE).

Lapland Longspur: Good midwinter counts were received: 3000 were in se Gosper Co 26 Jan (LR,RH), and 1500 were in sw Phelps Co 26 Jan (LR,RH) and in sw Dixon Co 1 Feb (JJ). Very large numbers appear in ne NE in late Feb, presumably migrants; at least 10,000 were noted in sw Dixon Co 20 Feb, where "mile after mile ... they kept rising out of the cornfields. I've never seen this many at one time before." (JJ).

Snow Bunting: This was a good year for this species. Many reports were received, including excellent counts of 1000 in Wayne Co 7 Jan (JJ), 160 near Niobrara 30 Dec (BFH), and 92 w of Valentine 30 Dec (JGJ). All reports were n of the Platte R, except for 15 n of Lincoln 10 Feb (LE).

Red-winged Blackbird: An amazing concentration was 12,500 in a creek bottom at Pawnee Prairie 8 Feb (JGJ,WRS); these may have been early migrants. Singing birds were on territory by 22 Feb at Wolf L (TH).

Western Meadowlark: First identified by song were in Otoe Co 22 Feb (LF,CF).

Meadowlark sp.: None were reported, although several reports of "Western" Meadowlark were received without identification details. Although most, if not all, winter meadowlarks in Nebraska are probably Westerns, field identification to species in winter is difficult if not impossible unless a call is heard.

Rusty Blackbird: The only reports were of 41 at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ) and at least 1 in Cass Co 5 Jan (GW et al). This species is not unusual in the se as late as early Jan.

Brewer's Blackbird: The only report was from Cass Co 5 Jan (GW et al). There are a few reports in midwinter in the se, but these are poorly documented.

Common Grackle: Midwinter reports were from the se, as expected, except for 1 in Knox Co 19 Jan (MB). Few overwinter, usually singles at feeders. One, the only sighting by this observer, was at

a feeder in Lincoln 16 Jan (LE), and 1 was reported on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Rare in midwinter, 3 reports were received: 3 were in w Lancaster Co 2 Jan (LE), 1 was in Sarpy Co 12 Jan (DS), and 6 were in the observers' yard near Gibbon 10 Feb (LR,RH).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: This was a good winter for this species. The flood of rarity-hunters in w Nebraska in late Dec located a flock of 30-40 at a rocky outcropping roost site on the Hughson Ranch n of Scottsbluff 27 Dec (SJD,WRS,JS). These birds had been in the area for some time (Helen Hughson fide WRS). A flock of about 100 were near Whitney in Dawes Co 29 Dec (SJD,JS,WRS,BFH) and up to 75 were at a Chadron feeder through the period (ZU). Other reports were 40 at L Alice 14 Jan (LKM), 3 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders 23 Feb (AK), 2 w of Fort Robinson in Sioux Co 30 Dec (JGJ), and the first to appear at the James Ranch feeders was seen 16 Dec (SL).

Purple Finch: Fewer than 10 were reported, but 1 was far west near Gering for the winter (AK).

Cassin's Finch: Observers were afforded an opportunity to study the rarest of the 3 Carpodacus finches in Nebraska when several Cassin's appeared at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders during the fall, probably also part of the montane influx. Not as many remained there through winter, best count 5 on 27 Dec (SJD).

House Finch: Best count was 48 on the UNL East campus in Lincoln 17 Jan (LE).

Red Crossbill: After a promising eastward move in the fall, winter reports east of the expected range were sporadic at best. Best eastern count was 35 in Harlan Co 2 Feb (LR,RH), and 1 was at Wild Rose Ranch 28 Dec (TEL), another at Cottonmill Park in Kearney 23 Feb (LR,RH), 5 were at Nebraska City 24 Feb (LF,CF), and it was reported from Cass (GW et al) and Saunders (DS) Cos without numbers given. Best count was from the west: 65 at Wildcat Hills NC 25 Jan (LKM).

Common Redpoll: As seems to be usual for this species following a good year, none were reported this year.

Pine Siskin: Reports were statewide in average numbers except for the west, where good numbers were reported, including up to 300 at the Wildcat Hills NC 27 Dec (SJD) and 80 at Chadron 3 Feb (ZU).

American Goldfinch: Numbers were about average statewide. Best counts were 75 at a single feeder in Lincoln 10 Jan (LE) and 45 in Nebraska City 13 Jan (LF,CF).

Evening Grosbeak: Most reports were from (where else?) the Wildcat Hills NC feeders, where a flock wintered; best count was 48 on 25 Jan (LKM). Numbers were good in the west, as 116 were counted on the Scottsbluff CBC 21 Dec and 12 were seen at Harrison 29 Dec (SJD). Easterly reports were of 3 at Kearney on the CBC 21 Dec, 5 at LM 28 Dec (BFH), and 15 at HCR 12 Jan (LR,RH).

House Sparrow: This species appears to be intimidated not only by House Finches, but by Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches; all the House Sparrows left whenever Gray-crowns appeared at the observer's feeders (ZU).

OBSERVERS

Mark Brogie (MB), Creighton; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Larry Einemann (LE), Lincoln; Carol Falk (CF), Nebraska City; Laurence Falk (LF), Nebraska City; Marlin French (MF), Ellsworth; Robin Harding (RH), Gibbon; Thomas A. Hoffman (TH), Omaha; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City; Jan Johnson (JJ), Wakefield; Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Blair; Alice Kenitz (AK), Gering; Lucy Koenig (LK), Scottsbluff; Thomas E. Labeledz (TEL), Lincoln; Sandy Lemmon (SL), Crawford; Larry K. Malone (LKM),

Scottsbluff; Babs Padelford (BP), Bellevue; Loren Padelford (LP), Bellevue; Lanny Randolph (LR), Gibbon; Neal Ratzlaff (NR), Omaha; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor, IA; Dave Stage (DS), Lincoln; John Sullivan (JS), Elmwood; Edna Claire Thomas (ECT), Morrill; Zee Urudil (ZU), Chadron; Gertrude Wood, Donald Wood, KevinDeGarmo, Jan DeGarmo (GW et al), Elmwood.

NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR 1996

The official count period for the 97th Audubon National Society's Christmas Bird Count was 20 December 1996 through 5 January 1997. One location (Harlan County) conducted counts outside the official period.

The numerical data are presented in Table 1 (pages 28-34) in a west (left) to east (right) order for nine locations in Nebraska. Unusual species that were underlined in the individual reports are marked by an asterisk (*) before the number in a particular column, and unusual numbers underlined in the reports are shown in **bold**. For Bald Eagles, the total number, which is given first, includes any adults and/or immatures (given in parentheses). Species with subdivisions such as for Snow Goose, Northern Flicker, and Dark-eyed Junco, are counted as a unit in getting species totals. Unidentified species are included in the total numbers but not in the number of species for a location except when no specific form was reported. Species seen in the count circle during the count period, but not on the count day, are listed at the end of the location descriptions.

The following descriptions of the nine locations with abbreviations (if used) in Table 1, are presented alphabetically, and include pertinent information and names of compilers and participants.

Beaver Valley: center 4 mi. west, 1.5 mi. south of Petersburg, Boone Co. (NW corner of Sec. 5, T21N, R7W); 29 Dec., 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., temp. -3 to 16° F, partly cloudy, wind NW 0-5 mph, snow 4" (100% snow-covered), still water frozen, moving water partly open; 5 observers in 2 parties + 1 at feeders; 14 hrs. and 10 mi. on foot, 4 hrs. and 46 mi. by car. Observers: Belle Esau, Dave Heidt, **Wayne Mollhoff** (compiler), Neal Pohlman, Brant Wolff, Duane Wolff. Comments by Wayne Mollhoff: "There was a very marked scarcity of birds due to a severe ice/sleet storm that gave 2-4" of ice, with 100% ice cover from mid-November through mid-December. There was still about 10% ice cover beneath the hard, crusted snow on count day."

Harlan County (Harlan Co): center 2 mi. east of Alma, center of Section 26, includes Harlan Co. Lake, Orleans, Republican City, and Huntley; 15 Dec., 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., temp. 20 - 31° F, wind NW 15-25 mph, water open; 5 observers in 3 parties (all in field); 1.5 hrs. and 2 mi. owling, 26 total party hrs., total party mi. 210 by car, 4 on foot. Observers: Robin Harding, Jerry Jorgensen, **Joel Jorgensen** (compiler), Lanny Randolph, and Ross Silcock. Species observed during count week but not on count day: Double-crested Cormorant (1), Greater White-fronted Goose (1), Snow Goose (3), Ross' Goose (1), Northern Pintail (1), Bufflehead (2), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (1), White-throated Sparrow (1).

Kearney: center 2 mi. west of Kearney Platte River bridge, circle includes Kearney Cemetery, Cottonmill Park, Fort Kearny State Parks including Hike-Bike Trail, Kearney, roadside areas, cropland, and grassland visible from the road; 21 Dec., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., temp. 31-37°F, cloudy to partly cloudy, wind calm, no

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Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Species	Scotts -bluff	Lake McCon.	North Platte	Harlan County	Loup City	Kearney	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Western Grebe		4							
American White Pelican									
Great Blue Heron blue form		6		1		2		8	1
Trumpeter Swan		2							
Greater White-fronted Goose						4		1	
Snow Goose blue form		5				25		4 1	538
Ross' Goose						2			
Canada Goose small forms	12,873	13,700	5867	1687	1500 150	36,900	6	5557	617
Wood Duck								2	8
Green-winged Teal, Am.	6	3		1			28		1
Mallard	10,448	2021	3	9009	1750	116	2500	1086	317
Northern Pintail	4	2					1	2	
Gadwall		21		1			1		
American Wigeon	44	3							
Redhead				1					

Ring-necked Duck		1							
Greater Scaup		1							
Lesser Scaup		1		9			1		6
Oldsquaw		1							
Common Goldeneye	26	900		33		5	7	3	66
Bufflehead		48							
Hooded Merganser		3						1	
Common Merganser		4000		23,071				1	87
Red-breasted Merganser		1							
Ruddy Duck		1							
duck species								1	
Bald Eagle adults immature unknown	5 (3) (1) (1)	59	15	53 (14) (21) (18)	4	20	4		23 (20) (3)
Northern Harrier	3	7	4	6	1	2		10	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk		5		1		1	3	6	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	1						2	
hawk (Accipiter) species	1							1	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	16	14	47	4	5	6	75	53
Ferruginous Hawk	1	4	2	1		4			
Rough-legged Hawk	1	11		2	2	6	5	1	
hawk (Buteo) species	1				1		5	4	

Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Golden Eagle adult immature	3 (2) (1)		2		1				
American Kestrel	8	17	17	5		6	2	21	23
Merlin		5		1					
Prairie Falcon		1			1	1			
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	37	6	2	26	8	30	14	
Greater Prairie- Chicken		1		7			21		
Sharp-tailed Grouse		9					10		
Wild Turkey	52							1	37
Northern Bobwhite			18	15			1	34	8
Sandhill Crane			1						
Killdeer		10						1	
Common Snipe	3	6			1				
Ring-billed Gull		18		467					1
California Gull		3		1					
Herring Gull	2	200		446					1
Herring/Ring-billed Gull			3						
Thayer's Gull				1					
Glaucous Gull				5					
Rock Dove	78	91	100	32	53	141	4	513	66

Mourning Dove		21		1	1			495	60
Eastern Screech-Owl		2		7	1		1	4	2
Great Horned Owl	2	6	2	10	1		2	6	3
Barred Owl								1	1
Long-eared Owl				5			2	1	
owl species								2	
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	1	3	1	3	1	8	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker		3		23	2	7	3	23	67
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	7	6	17	11	11	8	110	109
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1		2	3	3	2	22	13
Northern Flicker	15	71	23	18		6		13	
Yellow-shafted	2			21	1		6	9	19
Red-shafted				3			1	2	
Yel.-sh. x Red-sh.	1								
Horned Lark	102	6533		162	780	470	5	4	
Steller's Jay	*2								
Blue Jay	39	9	14	11	4	19	3	317	38
Pinyon Jay	42								
Black-billed Magpie	17	110	1	20		7	1	2	
American Crow	99	3	233	324	120	120	48	1141	329
Black-capped Chickadee	29	23	19	53	20	20	21	301	421
Mountain Chickadee	*10		1						

Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Tufted Titmouse									53
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	2	12			5	1	13	2
White-breasted Nuthatch		2	5	20	5	6	6	62	140
Pygmy Nuthatch	*2								
Brown Creeper				2			1	35	8
Canyon Wren									1
Carolina Wren								2	
Winter Wren								2	
Marsh Wren		10							
Golden-crowned Kinglet		6						6	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								1	*1
Eastern Bluebird		24	2	2		5			
Mountain Bluebird		10	201						
Townsend's Solitaire	14	86	1	8				*1	
American Robin	349	1254	774	91		158		125	5
Brown Thrasher						1			
Bohemian Waxwing		10							
Cedar Waxwing		101	2	22		100		11	20
Northern Shrike	5	8	4	5	2		1		
shrike species								1	
European Starling	460	1478	850	3058	70	1300	21	2697	1903

Orange-crowned Warbler								*1	
Northern Cardinal	2	5	13	42	2	25	3	141	105
Spotted Towhee				5				15	
American Tree Sparrow	61	215	35	403	115	100	25	1421	220
Field Sparrow								2	
Song Sparrow	3	9		1	1	1		30	1
Lincoln's Sparrow								1	
Swamp Sparrow								1	
White-throated Sparrow								8	
White-crowned Sparrow	4	1		2				6	
Harris' Sparrow			3	15		5		247	20
sparrow species	2								
Dark-eyed Junco(form?)	34	306	89	92	38	106		716	
Slate-colored	7			19			19	223	347
White-winged	1			4				15	
Oregon	33			3					
Pink-sided									
Lapland Longspur		514		135	8			1	
Chestnut-collared Longspur					1				
Snow Bunting		204			1		15	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	580	10	1	9	2		14	18	
Western Meadowlark	5					2		3	
meadowlark species		8		95				97	2
Rusty Blackbird				1					

Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Brewer's Blackbird		3							
Great-tailed Grackle							2		
Common Grackle			7	1			15	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird				19			1		
blackbird species									
Purple Finch				2			1		
Cassin's Finch	*2								
House Finch	99	317	108	21		76	40	101	35
Red Crossbill	4	32	45	21			1		
Pine Siskin	335	154	360	1			5	1	1
American Goldfinch	17	135	226	62	70	18	9	381	241
Evening Grosbeak	136	12				3			
House Sparrow	442	380	153	39	30	175	160	926	460
Total species	52	80	42	67	36	44	46	73	53
Total individuals	26,530	33,313	9243	39,785	4784	40,000	3061	17,142	6493

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snow cover, still water frozen, moving water open; 8 observers in 2 parties and 5 feeder watchers; 2.5 hrs. and 4.5 mi. on foot, 13 hrs. and 104 mi. by car. Observers: John Bliese, George Brown, Marian Brown, Robin Harding, Wes Kellogg, John Kozak, Richard Luehrs, Eileen Paine, **Lanny Randolph** (compiler), Alice Rumery, Barbara Tebbel, Paul Tebbel, and Mark Urwiller.

Lake McConaughy (Lake McCon.): center at north end of Ogallala Beach Recreation Area, Gate 20, along south side of the lake, circle includes Lemoyne, Keystone, and Ogallala; 28 Dec., 5:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 21-52°F, mostly clear, wind variable 5-15 mph, snow cover 0-1", still water mostly frozen, moving water partly open; 11 observers in 6 parties (0 at feeders), 15 hrs. and 13.5 mi. on foot, 30.75 hrs. and 390 mi. by car, .5 hr. and 1 mi. owling. Observers: Mark Brogie, **Stephen J. Dinsmore** (compiler), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Jerry Jorgensen, Joel Jorgensen, Babs and Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Ross Silcock, John Sullivan.

Lincoln: center at intersection of Coddington and West A Sts., circle includes Pioneers Park, about 8 mi. in Wilderness Park, Lagoon Park, Yankee Hill Lake and Conestoga Lake areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lake, and Wyuka Cemetery; 21 Dec., 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., temp. 32-38° F, cloudy a.m., partly cloudy p.m., wind S 5 mph, no snow, still and moving water partly frozen; 20 observers in 12 parties, 3 feeder observers, 60 hrs. and 74 mi. on foot, 26 hrs. and 407 mi. by car, 2 hrs. and 1 mi. owling, 5 hrs. at feeders. Observers: Irene and George Alexander, Russ Benedict, Terry Brown, Cindy Cochran, Dave Cochran, Jan and Kevin DeGarmo, John Dinan, Larry Einemann, **Paul and Karla Kaufman** (compilers), Tim Knott, Jeanine Lackey, Linda and Peter Maslowski, Ken Reitan, Terry Stentz, Moni Usase, Diane West.

Loup City: northeast corner of Loup City, Sherman Co., northeast corner of Sec. 13, T15N, R15W; 1 Jan, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., temp. 30-52° F, partly clear a.m., cloudy p.m., wind calm, no snow, still water frozen, moving water partly open; 3 observers in 1 party (none at feeders), 3 hrs. and 3 mi. on foot, 7 hrs. and 95 mi. by car. Observers: **Wayne J. Mollhoff** (compiler), Don and Colleen Noecker. Comments by Wayne Mollhoff: "A marked difference between this count and that for Beaver Valley, less than 100 miles apart, and with a similar mix of habitat. There was a relative abundance of ground feeders here. Wild fruit (juniper berries) was nearly non-existent."

North Platte and Lincoln County: no official center given according to the rules of the National Audubon Society; 21 Dec., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 16-38°F, overcast, wind 5 mph. Observers (all members of Tout Bird Club): Robert Bailey, Florence Clough, Esther and Harold Cunningham, Greg Hoover, Pat McEvoy, Nancy Norton, Darlene Schick, Carol Somerholder, **Wilma Wyman** (compiler), Howard Wyman. Comments by Wilma Wyman: "The one Sandhill Crane seems to take sanctuary on the north side of the North Platte River and feeds in the harvested corn fields nearby. Burt Somerholder, a knowledgeable birder in our club, has sighted the crane twice, once within 10 feet of his blind. He was amazed at the beauty of its plumage and that it is still here in the cold. The Mountain Chickadee was sighted for several weeks at the TV office and broadcasting studio north of North Platte. Loren and Babs Padelford drove out to see it and were successful. Loren said it was the first Mountain Chickadee reported this far east."

Omaha: center at Offutt Air Force Base Lake, Bellevue, circle includes Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge, and portions of the Platte and Missouri Rivers; 4 Jan., 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 20-29° F,

clear in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m., wind NW 10-20 mph, no snow, still water frozen, moving water open; 38 observers in 12-13 parties (none at feeders), 28 hrs. and 23.25 mi. on foot, 27.75 hrs. and 393 mi. by car, 1 hr. and 1 mi. owling. Observers: Betty Allen, Roland Barth, Elliott Bedows, Laurene Blankenau, Duane Bright, Mani Bunnami, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Kevin DeGarmo, Sharon Draper, Dick Gilson, Shirley Gilster, Chad Graeve, Ruth Green, **Betty Grenon** (compiler), Essie and Sam Grill, Craig Hensley, Clem Klaphake, Ray Korpi, Eunice Levisay, Toby Lyons, Don Maas, Jim McLochlin, Frances Mendenhall, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Dick Rasmussen, Eric Scholar, Greg Stoiber, John Sullivan, Jerry Toll, Pam Vaughn, Jeff Wallace, Patrice Wallace, Chris Williams, Alexander Wilson, Edith Wilson, Gertrude Wood. Species seen during the count period but not on the count day: American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Cooper's Hawk, and Winter Wren.

Scottsbluff: The center of the circle, intersection of County Roads P and 20, has been moved approximately 1.75 miles SE of previous center, which was at Visitors' Center, Scottsbluff National Monument, in order to include a new Nature Center. The circle includes the cities of Gering and Scottsbluff, Wildcat Hills Nature Center, part of Carter Canyon, Scottsbluff County Airport, and Robidoux Pass; 21 Dec., 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., temp. 27-44° F, cloudy, wind ESE 3-18 mph, no snow, still water partly open, moving water open; 8 observers in 1-2 parties (none at feeders), 1 hr. and .75 mi. on foot, 12.5 hrs. and 152 mi. by car, no owling. Observers: Bob DeLara, Mary Hunt, **Alice Kenitz** (compiler), Kathy Larson, Larry Malone, Brad McKinney, Annie Sherrill, Cherie Terwilliger. Species seen during count week but not on count day: Sharp-shinned Hawk. Comments by Alice Kenitz: "We are having an interesting winter with a number of species visiting our area - Cassin's Finch, Mountain Chickadee, and Steller's Jay. We speculate that this is happening because of drought and fires in the mountains and in the west, causing a lack of food supply in those areas."

1997 SURVEY OF BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES IN NEBRASKA

John Dinan, Nongame Bird Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 (phone: 402/471-0641; Fax: 402/471-5528), supplied the results of the 1997 (January 1-15) Bald and Golden Eagle surveys, with six organizations and twelve individuals participating

Conditions for 1997 survey: Temperatures ranged from 8 to 35°F. The Niobrara River had 50-100% ice cover except the upper portion, which was mostly open. The unchannelized portion of the Missouri River was 90-100% ice-covered, but the channelized portion was open and was carrying floating ice below Tekamah. The Platte River had 50-90% ice cover, the North Platte River was mostly open, and ice cover on the South Platte River was highly variable (0-90%). The Loup River was 90-95% ice-covered. Lakes and reservoirs were 70-100 % ice-covered except for Lake McConaughy, which had 40% ice cover.

Golden Eagles: There were 29 Golden Eagle sightings in Nebraska during the 1997 survey, distributed as follows: North Platte River (11); Republican River (2); Sidney (1); and in the following counties: Cherry (1); Dawes (4); Dundy (1); Garden (1); Rock (1); Scottsbluff (1); Sheridan (1); Sioux (3); Wheeler (2).

Bald Eagles: The 1997 survey included 736 adults, 293 immatures, and 1 of unknown age. The total of 1030 Bald Eagles is a 43% increase over the 1996 count of 719, a 39% increase over the 1980-96 statewide average of 743, and an 11% increase over the

previous five-year average of 924. The frequency of immature individuals among age-identified birds was 28%, representing a 6% increase over the previous 10-year average. Bald Eagle numbers were reported to the National Wildlife Federation for four standardized reporting segments. Compared to the 1980-1996 average, Bald Eagle use was up 150% for the North Platte River, Keystone to Lewellen, including Lake McConaughy and Ogallala; up 10% for the North and South Platte Rivers, Maxwell to the Lincoln/Keith County line, including Sutherland Reservoir; up 159 % for the Republican River, Alma to Naponee, including Harlan Co. Reservoir; and down 38% for the Platte River, Darr to Elm Creek area, including Johnson and Elwood Reservoirs.

Bald Eagle data are given in the following tables.

Imm. (immature), NRD(Natural Resource District), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

	Adults	Imm.	Total
North Platte River, Totals	96	61	157
Wyoming Line-Bayard (area lakes)	5	7	12
Bayard-Lisco	8	9	17
Lisco-Lewellen	4	2	6
Lewellen-Keystone (area lakes)	68	42	110
Paxton-North Platte	11	1	12

No Bald Eagles sighted from Keystone to Paxton.

South Platte River, Totals	8	1	9
Big Springs-Paxton	2	.	2
Paxton-North Platte Tri-Co. Div.	6	1	7

No Bald Eagles sighted from Colorado Line to Big Springs.

Platte River, Totals	131	39	170
North Platte-Gothenberg (lake, canal)	31	2	33
Gothenberg-Darr	16	1	17
Darr-Elm Creek (lakes, canal)	28	15	43
Elm Creek-Kearney	7	4	11
Kearney-Shelton	6	6	12
Shelton-Grand Island	3	1	4
Grand Island-Silver Creek	6	.	6
Silver Creek-Columbus	1	.	1
Columbus-North Bend	10	5	15
North Bend-Fremont	6	2	8
Fremont-Linoma	11	3	14
Linoma-Plattsmouth	6	.	6

	Adults	Imm.	Total
North Loup, Middle Loup, and Loup Rivers, Totals	19	1	20
Arcadia-mouth (Sherman Reservoir) (Middle Loup)	3	1	4
North Loup River-Genoa (Loup R.)	11	.	11
Genoa-mouth (Loup River)	5	.	5

Niobrara River, Totals	17	2	19
Snake River-Cornell	6	1	7
Cornell-Cherry Co. Line	7	.	7
Cherry Co. Line-Cuba	2	1	3
Newport-Redbird/Lynch	1	.	1
Redbird/Lynch-Missouri River	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles sighted for Cuba to Newport.

Snake River, Totals (Hwy 97 bridge-mouth (Merritt Res.))	7	6	13
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Republican River, Totals	208	116	324
Alma-Naponee (Harlan Reservoir)	129	65	194
Naponee-Riverton	68	49	117
Riverton-Guide Rock	7	1	8
Guide Rock-Superior	4	1	5

Missouri River, Totals	157	33	191*
Missouri River	3	3	6
NE Line-Monowi	2	1	3
Gavins Pt.-Goat Island	7	1	8
Goat Island.-Ponca St. Park	1	1	2
Ponca St. Park-Homer	5	.	5
Homer-Decatur	11	2	13
Decatur-Tekamah	12	.	12
Tek.-Mormon Bridge (DeSoto NWR)	18	5	24*
Mormon Bridge-Hwy 275	1	.	1
Hwy 275-Plattsmouth	3	.	3
Plattsmouth-Union	8	4	12
Union-Peru	30	4	34

(table continued on p. 39)

(Table for Missouri River continued)

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Peru-Indian Cave State Park	47	11	58
Indian Cave State Park-Kansas	9	1	10

* Includes 1 of unknown age in Tekamah to Mormon Bridge area.

No Bald Eagles sighted for Monowi to Gavins Pt (Lewis & Clark).

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Reservoirs and Lakes, Totals	50	30	80
Sutherland Reservoir	12	10	22
Lake Maloney	6	3	9
Enders Reservoir	0	5	5
Swanson Reservoir	26	12	38
Red Willow Reservoir	2	.	2
Medicine Creek Reservoir	1	.	1
Calamus Reservoir	2	.	2
Walgren Lake	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles seen at Lake Babcock, Salt Valley Lakes, or Lincoln City Lakes.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Other Areas, Totals	5	.	5
Area not identified	2	.	2
Schilling WMA	2	.	2
Twin Lakes	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles seen at Sidney, Mahon Ranch, Cody Park, Sac-Wilcox WMA, Sandy Creek NRD, Valentine NWR, Frenchman, or Maloney Canal.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Counties, Totals	38	4	42
Boone	6	.	6
Chase	1	.	1
Cherry	1	.	1
Clay	1	.	1
Cuming	1	.	1
Dawes	1	.	1
Furnas	9	4	13
Garfield	4	.	4
Lancaster	1	.	1
Loup	3	.	3

(Table continued on p. 40)

(Table for counties continued)

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Madison	1	.	1
Red Willow	4	.	4
Scottsbluff	1	.	1
Thayer	1	.	1
Valley	3	.	3

No Bald Eagles observed in Dundy, Garden, Rock, Sheridan, Sioux, or Wheeler Counties.

BALD EAGLE COUNTS AT TWO CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND
IRRIGATION DISTRICT FACILITIES

Mark M. Peyton and Rodger Knaggs

Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District
P.O. Box 188, Gothenburg, NE 69138-0188

Since 1988, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) has provided free access to the public at its Johnson #2 (J-2) Hydroelectric Plant south of Lexington, Dawson County, and the use of spotting scopes and binoculars to view Bald Eagles foraging and perching along the tailrace of the plant. Central also provided a small trailer from 1990-95 for viewing Bald Eagles near the outlet of the Kingsley Hydroelectric Plant at Lake Ogallala in Keith County. In 1996, Central completed construction of a permanent viewing facility at this location. Central provides personnel at both locations to answer questions and provide assistance with the viewing scopes. These individuals also conducted daily eagle surveys from these locations.

METHODS

Central personnel, using binoculars and/or spotting scopes, counted the number of Bald Eagles visible from each viewing site. Counts were made at 8:00 a.m. local time, noting age of the birds and weather conditions at the time of the counts.

RESULTS

The J-2 Plant was open to the public for 27 days from 21 December 1996 to 23 February 1997. A total of 2104 people registered for an average of 78/day, and 346 Bald Eagle sightings (12.8/day) were recorded. The new viewing facility at Kingsley Dam was open for 55 days from 13 December 1996 to 16 March 1997. Bald Eagle surveys were conducted on those days and ten additional days. A record 4127 people registered at the facility for an average of 75/day. A total of 4810 Bald Eagle sightings (74/day) were recorded.

Peak Bald Eagle counts were 24 on 26 December at the J-2 Plant, and 324 on 1 February at the Kingsley viewing facility. The average number of Bald Eagles counted in both locations was normal when compared to the previous six years of data (Table 1).

DISCUSSION

During the past seven years, over 40,000 people have registered to view Bald Eagles at the two facilities provided to the public by the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation

Table 1: The average number of eagles counted per day from the J-2 Power Plant and the Kingsley Viewing Facility from 1990 - 1997.

YEAR	J-2 PLANT	KINGSLEY
1990-91	11	21
1991-92	8	42
1992-93	4	87
1993-94	14	114
1994-95	11	17
1995-96	17	64
1996-97	13	74

District. During 1996-97, over 6000 people utilized the facilities for leisure or scientific observations of the eagles and other birds of interest.

By providing the 1200 square foot Kingsley Viewing Center with large picture windows overlooking Lake Ogallala and the Kingsley hydro discharge, in addition to the J-2 Power Plant viewing area with large windows overlooking the tailrace of the Plant, Central makes available to the public some of the best views of foraging eagles to be found anywhere in the Great Plains region of the United States. Central will open the facilities next season beginning in mid-December. Photography blinds may be reserved by contacting the Central office at Holdrege (308/995-8601) or the Kingsley office at 308/284-2332.

NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

Albino Eastern Bluebirds. On 24 July 1996, I banded two totally white Eastern Bluebirds in Sarpy County, Nebraska. These two birds were in a nest with two other normally plumaged siblings. They were not only white-plumaged, their feet and bills were white and the eyes were a pinkish-red. They were just as well-developed as the two normal birds and were ready to fledge, which they did the following day.



I believe these birds fit the description of total albinism as defined by John K. Terres in The Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds. He defines total albinism as the rarest form, in which the bird has a complete absence of melanin from the eyes, skin, and feathers.

---- Ruth C. Green, 506 W 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 58005-5520

American Goldfinch. Bird banding tells us many things about various species - where they migrate, distribution, age, and much more. I had an experience with a female American Goldfinch recently that I never dreamed would happen. I banded this bird 21 March 1996 in my Bellevue yard. On 12 March 1997, while banding at Ft. Kearny near Minden, NE, I re-netted the same bird - a year later and 185 miles west of Bellevue. The chances of this happening are so remote that

I can't imagine what the odds would be. What was surprising was not the distance the bird had moved, but that the same bander encountered it at such widely separated places.

-----Ruth C. Green, 506 W 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 58005-5520

Clark's Nutcrackers. On 8 February 1997, Helen Hughson, Robin Harding, Lanny Randolph, Larry Malone, and I were in the town of Morrill in western Scotts Bluff County, looking for two Clark's Nutcrackers that had been reported to be visiting feeders there since 11 January 1997. We found the birds in a residential neighborhood. They were easily identified as Clark's Nutcrackers - gray birds a little larger than an American Robin, with a long, black bill, black wings and tail with white wing patches and outer tail feathers clearly visible in flight. After we had identified and watched them for a few minutes, one of them flew away and our attention focused on the one that flew to a feeder area in a nearby yard. We could not see it there, so we decided to move the car to a spot from which we thought we could see it. We had just moved the car a few feet when the Clark's Nutcracker flew from the feeder, went across the street in front of us, and lit on the ground. We noticed that it had its beak open quite far. It appeared to have something stuck in the back of its throat and seemed to be struggling to get it out. We were concerned that it might be choking on something and were trying to figure out how to keep this bird from dying right in front of us. It soon flew to another spot on the ground 10 to 15 feet from the original spot. It continued to have its beak open, but periodically would close it very briefly and we could see something in the end of it. Then it began to move dried grass and leaves. It was then that Larry Malone realized the nutcracker had stored food in its throat or sublingual pouch and was burying it. Edna Claire Thomas, whose feeder the bird had visited, reported to me that the Clark's Nutcrackers fed mainly at her suet feeders. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds notes that Clark's Nutcrackers can carry up to 70 seeds in their throats (or sublingual pouches). They store these seeds by burying them and appear to eventually eat up to 70 % of those stored.

-----Alice Kenitz, 190648 Co. Rd. 22, Gering, NE 69341-6700

Sabine's Gulls. In late September 1996, we joined Ross Silcock and John Sullivan for a trip to western Nebraska. One of the species we were looking for was Sabine's Gull, but we did not expect to find five different individuals at three locations. Their occurrence in western Nebraska probably resulted from the passage of a strong cold front on 25-26 September. This report includes details of these sightings and comments on the species' status in Nebraska.

On 26 September 1996, we arrived at the inlet canal of Lake Maloney in Lincoln County. We immediately spotted a small, brown-mantled gull resting on the water near the inlet canal at the northwest end of the lake. We studied the bird from 2:43 to 3:17 p.m. CST. It was roughly 20% smaller than nearby Franklin's Gulls. It had a dainty appearance created by the small bill and rounded head. The forehead, throat, breast, and flanks were white. The bill was short, straight, and black. The eye was dark. The crown, nape, and mantle were a dark gray-brown. On the water, the wings appeared to be the same color as the mantle except for black primaries. In flight, the upperwing pattern was striking: outer primaries black; inner primaries, secondaries, and some greater secondary coverts white; remainder of secondary coverts dark gray-brown. The tail was white, slightly forked, and had a narrow, black terminal band. Within a few minutes, this juvenile bird was joined by a second

juvenile and an adult, which was similar to the juveniles except for gray on the upper secondary coverts, a yellow-tipped bill, and a black hood with some white flecks on the forehead. At times, the perched adult appeared to have a black shoulder bar, but this may have been due to missing or out-of-place feathers. We returned on 29 September and found one juvenile still present.

Later on 26 September, we stopped at the Sutherland Reservoir in Lincoln County. We were searching through the thousands of Franklin's Gulls when Joel spotted a juvenile Sabine's Gull along the southeast shore of the lake. We watched the bird from 3:55 to 4:15 p.m. CST. It was slightly smaller and had more tern-like wings than the Franklin's Gulls, with which it was feeding. The upperwing pattern was three-toned: black outer primaries, white inner primaries and secondaries, and brown secondary coverts. It was otherwise similar to the juveniles noted at Lake Maloney.

Finally, on 28 September 1996, the four of us observed a juvenile Sabine's Gull on Lake McConaughy in Keith County. We watched the bird from 8:55 to 9:15 a.m. MST from a boat. It was in the middle of the lake near the west end, associating with a small flock of Franklin's Gulls. It was similar to the juveniles noted earlier.

These represent the seventh, eighth, and ninth records of this species in Nebraska. Previous records were from April (1), September (1), and October (4). Eight additional undocumented reports, many of them probably correct, are from September (4) and October (4). Perhaps regular checks of the large reservoirs in western Nebraska after strong cold fronts in September and October might produce more records of this species.

----Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

----Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Highlights of Meeting 28 September 1996

Recorded by Robin Harding, Secretary

The meeting was held at the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey during Fall Field Days.

Betty Grenon, Treasurer, indicated that Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Cortelyou gave many items to N.O.U. when they moved to Mercer Island, WA. The funds from contributions for these items will be used to establish a scholarship fund to recruit new members. The scholarship recipient will get an all-expenses-paid trip to a N.O.U. meeting. Details will be worked out later.

Neal Ratzlaff, President, said that N.O.U. has 501 C3 status and is recognized by the federal government as a non-profit organization.

The status of the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project (Wayne Mollhoff, Coordinator) was discussed. The Atlas will have about 200 pages with about 335 sketches and maps. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has agreed to do the maps, and Brett Ratcliffe has agreed to edit the atlas. Funding is being sought to pay for the printing expenses.

Mary Lou Pritchard, Librarian, reported that the N.O.U. Field Card of Nebraska Birds, printed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, is very popular, and reprinting will be needed at some time in the future. She also said that 250 books were given to the N.O.U. Library by the Cortelyous.

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Send manuscripts, Christmas count reports, and notes on bird sightings to Rosalind Morris, Editor, 3018 O St., Lincoln, NE 68510-1529. Quarterly bird reports are sent to Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

Other officers are: President, Neal Ratzlaff, 536 Brentwood Rd., Omaha, NE 68114-4269; Vice-President, Betty Allen, 9628 Emmet St., Omaha, NE 68134; Secretary, Robin Harding, R.R. 2, Box 218, Gibbon, NE 68840-9654; Directors, Thomas Labedz, 724 Glenarbor Circle, Lincoln, NE 68512; Mark Brogie, 508 Seeley, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; Alice Kenitz, 190648 County Road 22, Gering, NE 69341. The Records Committee Chair is Mark Brogie (address given under Directors).

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A GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union often do not realize that the reason a George Miksch Sutton sketch of a burrowing owl is used as the logo of our organization, and also appears on the cover of every issue of The Nebraska Bird Review, is because Dr. Sutton was a native Nebraskan. He was born in Bethany (now part of northeastern Lincoln) in 1898, and several years of his childhood were spent there before the family left the state permanently. In spite of Dr. Sutton's great influence on American ornithology and bird art, no bibliography of his writings has ever been published. In conjunction with research into a planned short book dealing with a collection of Sutton paintings in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, the following bibliography of more than 270 of Dr. Sutton's publications has been prepared. While every effort has been made to make this bibliography as complete as possible, some minor items have no doubt been missed while scanning a literature base covering the seven decades of Sutton's amazingly prolific writing career, involving both popular and technical publications. Additionally, hundreds of Dr. Sutton's illustrations appeared as frontispiece plates in journals or magazines, or were used as text illustrations in books, articles or papers written by others. Such contributions have not been included in this bibliography.

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BIRDS OF THE LAKE OGALLALA STATE RECREATION AREA

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ABSTRACT

The Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area (LOSRA) is located immediately downstream from Lake McConaughy, which was formed by the construction of Kingsley Dam across the North Platte River, and includes riparian woodland, shrubland, grassland, marsh, sandbeach, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Birds were surveyed in LOSRA from 1988 to 1992 and censused in the southwest campground of LOSRA from late May to mid July during the 1991 and 1992 breeding seasons. Seventy-five bird species (56 terrestrial and 19 aquatic) were observed, including several hybridizing species. Thirty-one terrestrial species inhabited the southwest campground, but only 60% of these were counted during biweekly censuses; a consistent set was not counted. Total bird abundance declined during the 10 week census periods. Three avian nest predators and one brood parasite were observed in the southwest campground. Species diversity decreased as survey area decreased.

Key Words: brood parasites, guild structure, nest predators, species diversity

INTRODUCTION

In grassland ecosystems, riparian-woodland habitats are important sources of avian diversity (Zimmerman 1993). In western Nebraska, cottonwood trees form a ribbon of woodland habitat along the North Platte River, where it passes the southern edge of the Sandhills Prairie -- more than 18,000 square miles of sand-dune topography formed during the Pleistocene (Weaver and Albertson 1956). Lake McConaughy, formed by the construction of Kingsley Dam across the North Platte River, proliferated a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, including riparian woodland, shrubland, grassland, marsh, sandbeach, stream, river, pond, and lake.

Three-hundred-five avian species have been observed in the Lake McConaughy area (Rosche and Johnsgard 1984, Rosche 1994, Brown et al. 1996); 119 of these are summer residents (86 terrestrial and 33 aquatic) including two endangered species -- the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Several hybridizing taxa, including the Western (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and Clark's (*A. clarkii*) Grebes (Lapedz 1987), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*, red- and yellow-shafted), Rose-breasted (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) and Black-headed (*P. melanocephalus*) Grosbeaks, Indigo (*Passerina cyanea*) and Lazuli (*P. amoena*) Buntings, Eastern (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and Spotted (*P. maculatus*) Towhees, Eastern (*Sturnella magna*) and Western (*S. neglecta*) Meadowlarks, and Baltimore (*Icterus galbula*) and Bullock's (*I. bullockii*) Orioles, inhabit the Lake McConaughy area (Rosche and Johnsgard 1984, Rosche 1994, Brown et al. 1996), which lies within the Great Plains hybrid zone (Rising 1983). The Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area (LOSRA), which is included in the Lake McConaughy area, has, in smaller scale, almost all of the habitats found in the larger area.

Riparian woodlands have greater avian diversity than adjacent grasslands largely because of increased structural complexity

(Willson 1974). In addition, diversity indices often are related to the size of the area surveyed (i.e., area effect); surveys in the same general area, but conducted at different spatial scales, may have different species richness values (MacArthur 1972). The diversity of bird communities also is reflected in the number and type of ecologically similar groups (guilds), which are based on natural-history traits such as nesting substrate, food type, foraging substrate, and migratory status (Root 1967, Simberloff and Dayan 1991). Nest predators and brood parasites are important sources of nest mortality for many bird species (Ricklefs 1969), especially in woodland-edge habitat (Gates and Gysel 1978).

The purpose of this study was: 1) to note the bird species that are summer residents of LOSRA and the southwest campground, including hybridizing taxa; 2) to compare bird-species richness from surveys at different spatial scales; 3) to census the terrestrial bird community in the southwest campground of LOSRA, and evaluate its guild structure; 4) to document potential nest predators and brood parasites.

METHODS

Lake Ogallala was excavated during the 1930's and provided some construction material for Kingsley Dam. LOSRA (adjacent to the east side of Kingsley Dam) has campgrounds on the southwest, northwest, north, and east sides of Lake Ogallala (Fig. 1). LOSRA is maintained (e.g., mowing and trash pick-up) by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and, during the summer, it is used regularly by campers, fishermen, boaters, and picnickers. The riparian-woodland habitat is composed primarily of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees, shrubs such as prairie wild rose (*Rosa arkansana*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) in marshy areas. The interspersed grasslands are composed of mixed to short grasses such as buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and exotic smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), and other herbaceous vegetation including native forbs and plains prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*).

During summer breeding seasons (1989-1992), LOSRA was visited 5 to 7 times each week; bird species were noted whenever observed. In addition, terrestrial bird species inhabiting (i.e., nested or exhibited nesting behavior) the southwest campground were noted. Early morning censuses (n=10) were conducted biweekly during a 10-week period from late May to late July in 1991 and 1992. I walked a standardized route through the southwest campground, recording each species and counting each individual observed. Rainy or extremely windy days were avoided. The total number of birds for each census was compared with census date using simple regression (Zar 1984). Guild information was developed from literature sources for four natural-history traits: nesting substrate, food type, feeding substrate, and migratory status (see Table 1). Potential nest predators and brood parasites were noted as observed.

RESULTS

Seventy-five species were observed in LOSRA (56 terrestrial and 19 aquatic) including several hybridizing taxa: Western and Clark's Grebes, the eastern, "yellow-shafted" sub-species of the Northern Flicker, Indigo and Lazuli Buntings, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, and Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles. Thirty-one terrestrial bird species inhabited the southwest campground of

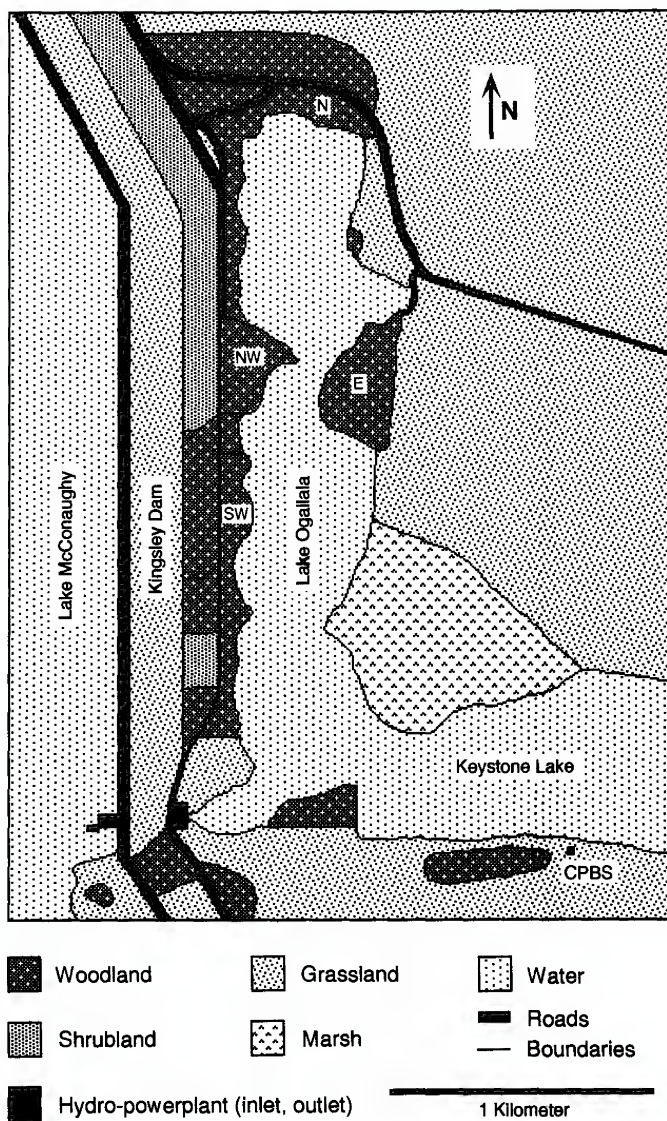


Figure 1. Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area (LOSRA) and surrounding area in Keith County, Nebraska ($41^{\circ} 13'N$, $101^{\circ} 40'W$). LOSRA surrounds Lake Ogallala with campgrounds on southwest (SW), northwest (NW), north (N), and east (E) sides. CPBS = Cedar Point Biological Station.

Piciformes ($n = 4$) were represented by more than one species (Table 1). There were 8 non-passerine and 10 passerine families; Emberizidae had 8 representatives, and Picidae had 4. Of the 31 species, 13 nest in trees, 6 in cavities (primary or secondary), 4 in shrubs, 4 on the ground, 2 in marsh, 1 in a bank, and 1 is a brood parasite. During the breeding season, 16 species are insectivores, 11 omnivores, and 1 each is a granivore, carnivore, piscivore, and vermivore. Thirteen species forage on the ground, 5 in the air, 5 in shrubs, 4 in trees, 2 on bark, 1 in marsh, and 1 in water. Fifteen species are short-distance migrants, 11 are neotropical migrants, and 5 are year-round residents.

Only 60% of the bird species inhabiting the southwest campground were counted during biweekly censuses (Table 2). Species richness and total number of birds varied little between years, but the total number of birds declined significantly through the census period (15 May to 20 June) in both years (Fig. 2). The eight most abundant species were always counted. Other species such as the Northern Flicker, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Warbling Vireo, and Common Yellowthroat were uncommon in the southwest campground but almost always counted. Several of these individuals held known territories along the census route. Some species such as the House Wren, Yellow Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and American Goldfinch were common in the southwest campground, but their census counts varied considerably. Other species inhabited the southwest campground but were rarely or never counted, including the Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, and Bullock's Oriole.

A number of bird species were observed but were not counted, because they did not inhabit the southwest campground. For example, Cliff Swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) from a colony at a nearby hydro-powerplant foraged temporarily within the southwest campground. American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) sometimes soared above the southwest campground using updrafts from Kingsley Dam but were never observed landing. Other terrestrial species such as the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Indigo Bunting, Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Western Meadowlark, and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), were common in LOSRA or the Lake McConaughy area (Rosche and Johnsgard 1984, Rosche 1994, Brown et al. 1996) but were not observed in the southwest campground. Aquatic species observed on adjacent Lake Ogallala and Keystone Lake included the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*), Northern Shoveler (*A. clypeata*), Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), Redhead (*A. americana*), Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*), and Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and several species of gulls and terns, including the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*), Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*), and Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), foraged on Lake Ogallala and Keystone Lake.

Two avian nest predators and one brood-parasite species inhabited the southwest campground: in the first category, House Wrens were common and Common Grackles were abundant; in the second category, Brown-headed Cowbirds were uncommon. Other potential nest predators observed in LOSRA included the Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and bull snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus sayi*).

Table 1. Guild structure of the bird species of the southwest campground of the Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area.

Common name ^a	Scientific name ^a	Order ^a	Family ^a	Nesting substrate ^b	Food type ^c , Feeding substrate ^d	Migratory status ^e
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Calliformes	Phasianidae	Ground	Omn, Ground	Resident
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	Ground	Insect, Ground	Short distance
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Tree	Gran, Ground	Short distance
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Tree	Carn, Ground	Resident
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	Ground	Insect, Air	Neotropical
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	Bank	Pisc, Water	Short distance
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Piciformes	Picidae	Cavity	Insect, Air	Short distance
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Piciformes	Picidae	Cavity	Insect, Bark	Resident
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Piciformes	Picidae	Cavity	Insect, Bark	Resident
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Piciformes	Picidae	Cavity	Insect, Ground	Short distance
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	Tree	Insect, Air	Neotropical
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	Tree	Insect, Air	Neotropical
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Passeriformes	Corvidae	Tree	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Passeriformes	Paridae	Cavity	Insect, Shrub	Resident
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	Cavity	Insect, Shrub	Neotropical
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	Marsh	Insect, Marsh	Short distance
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Passeriformes	Muscicapidae	Tree	Verm, Ground	Short distance
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Passeriformes	Mimidae	Shrub	Omn, Ground	Neotropical
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Passeriformes	Mimidae	Shrub	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Passeriformes	Bombycillidae	Tree	Insect, Air	Short distance
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	Tree	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Passeriformes	Vireonidae	Tree	Insect, Tree	Neotropical
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Shrub	Insect, Shrub	Neotropical
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Ground	Insect, Shrub	Neotropical
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Marsh	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Tree	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Parasite	Omn, Ground	Short distance
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Tree	Omn, Tree	Neotropical
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Tree	Omn, Tree	Neotropical
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Tree	Insect, Tree	Neotropical
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Passeriformes	Fringillidae	Shrub	Omn, Shrub	Short distance

^a Source: American Ornithologists' Union, 1983 and supplements^b Source: Ehrlich et al. 1988; Best et al. 1996^c Insect=insectivore, Omn=omnivore, Gran=granivore, Carn=carnivore, Pisc=piscivore, and Verm=vermivore; Source: Martin et al. 1951; De Graff et al. 1985;

Best et al. 1996

^d Source: De Graff et al. 1985; Ehrlich et al. 1988; Best et al. 1996^e Migratory Status: Neotropical=species that breed in North America and spend their non breeding period primarily south of the United States. Species generally recognized as neotropical migrants; Short distance=species that breed and winter extensively in North America, although some populations winter south of the United States; Resident=species inhabiting an area year round. Source: Rosche and Johnsgard 1984; Partners in Flight 1992; Best et al. 1996

Table 2. Bird species inhabiting the southwest campground of the Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area and the results of biweekly censuses during 1991 and 1992.

Species names (n=31) ^a	Date of census										Total number	Total number	Total ^b number	Average ^c relative abundance (%)	Top 10 rank
	05/23/92	05/31/91	06/02/92	06/10/91	06/18/92	06/27/91	07/03/92	07/09/91	07/16/92	07/18/91	1991	1992	combined		
Killdeer	1	1	0	4	1	1	0	2	0	1	9	2	11	0.61	
Mourning Dove	19	37	36	30	28	31	34	12	17	20	130	134	264	14.59	3
Belted Kingfisher	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	2	2	6	6	12	0.66	
Northern Flicker	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	7	6	13	0.72	
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	3	4	10	4	14	0.77	
Eastern Kingbird	2	2	3	4	6	2	3	5	4	1	14	18	32	1.77	9
Western Kingbird	21	50	12	28	20	30	16	19	24	21	148	93	241	13.32	4
Black-capped Chickadee	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	4	2	6	0.33	
House Wren	2	5	7	1	5	4	7	5	9	4	19	30	49	2.71	8
Marsh Wren	1	2	3	2	4	3	5	1	4	2	10	17	27	1.49	
American Robin	10	21	8	19	13	10	8	10	10	7	67	49	116	6.41	5
Gray Catbird	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	8	8	16	0.88	
European Starling	5	4	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	0	8	10	18	1.00	
Warbling Vireo	2	4	2	2	3	0	1	1	2	1	8	10	18	1.00	
Yellow Warbler	16	16	19	16	17	6	14	6	11	4	48	77	125	6.91	7
Common Yellowthroat	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	8	11	19	1.05	
Red-winged Blackbird	47	45	48	37	42	38	50	26	21	19	165	208	373	20.62	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	8	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	11	12	0.66	
Common Grackle	33	50	60	50	38	29	11	7	1	15	151	143	294	16.25	2
Orchard Oriole	10	29	9	19	20	14	7	3	7	1	66	53	119	6.58	6
Baltimore Oriole	0	3	1	6	1	2	1	0	2	0	11	5	16	0.88	
American Goldfinch	1	2	5	0	3	3	1	6	4	6	17	14	31	1.71	10
Total number	177	273	229	227	206	184	170	107	129	107	898	911	1809^d		
No. abundant (>20)	3	6	3	4	5	4	2	1	2	2					
No. common (5 - 20)	4	1	6	3	3	3	6	5	5	4					
No. uncommon (<5)	11	11	10	11	9	13	12	13	13	13					
No. absent (=0)	12	12	11	12	13	10	10	11	10	11					
Species richness^e	18	18	19	18	17	20	20	19	20	19					

^a Species inhabiting the southwest campground but not counted during bi-weekly censuses: Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Downy Woodpecker,

Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, and Bullock's Oriole

^b Total number for a species combined over both 1991 and 1992^c Ave. rel. abundance (%) = Total number for a species combined/Total number for all species combined^d Total number for all species combined for both 1991 and 1992^e Species richness = no. of species recorded during each census

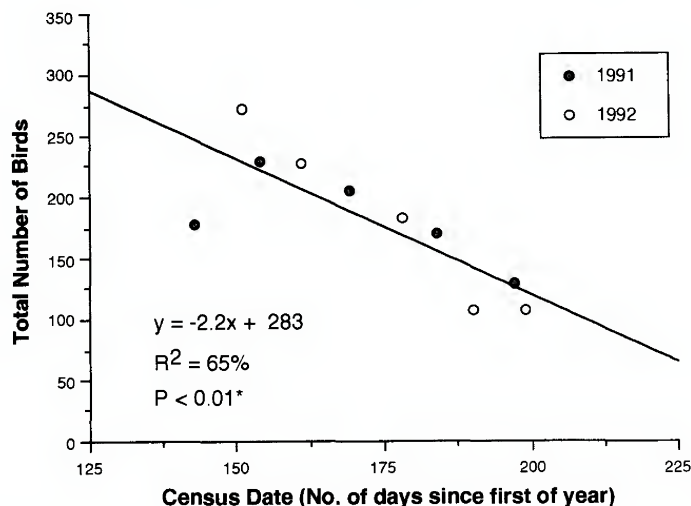


Figure 2. Total number of birds versus census date for the southwest campground of the Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area in 1991 and 1992. y = regression equation giving the coefficient and intercept. R^2 = proportion of variation in the total number of birds explained by census date. P = level of statistical significance for the simple regression (*significant non-zero slope if $P < 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

The avifauna richness observed in the Lake McConaughy area, and LOSRA in particular, resulted from their diverse habitats: riparian woodland, marsh, shrubland, grassland, sandbeach, stream, river, pond, and lake. Species richness decreased as the size of the survey area decreased from the Lake McConaughy area to LOSRA, and finally to the southwest campground, which is consistent with the "area effect" (MacArthur 1972). The southwest campground contains most of the habitats and most of the terrestrial bird species found in LOSRA. Species richness was relatively constant from census to census, but only a portion of the inhabiting species was recorded during any given census. Several species were not detected while conducting censuses (Tables 1, 2); most are adapted to denser shrubland or woodland, which reduces their visibility (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Also, the aggregate species richness for LOSRA and the southwest campground was compiled during hundreds of hours of observation, but species richness from each census was determined in a much shorter time period (approximately 1 hour).

Most summer residents of the southwest campground nest in some type of vertical structure and, apparently, are adapted to riparian-woodland habitat rather than the surrounding grasslands. Few distinctively grassland species were noted in the southwest campground. Most of the species are generalists, feeding on a variety of food types (especially insects) or substrates, but there are two specialists, the Belted Kingfisher (piscivore) and American Robin (vermivore). Few species reside in the southwest campground

year-round (<17%); most are migrants (Table 1). The temperate climate in western Nebraska (Weaver and Albertson 1956) probably contributes to the small number of year-round resident species. The temporal decline in the total number of birds was due to diminishing combined census counts of the four most abundant species (65% of the total number of birds counted), which decreased by over 56% from the first census to the last in both years. Apparently, adults of these species left the area after breeding, which was concentrated early in the census period. However, only small numbers of fledglings of any species were counted during censuses, even though nests of some species fledged during the census period.

Common Grackles, common nest predators in the southwest campground, were important sources of mortality in Western Kingbird nests in LOSRA (Bergin 1993) and probably other canopy-nesting species as well. Raccoons, while common, were most frequently observed near trash containers, rather than searching for nests in trees. Other potential nest predators observed in LOSRA were uncommon or rare in the southwest campground and unlikely to be important sources of nest mortality. Brown-headed Cowbirds, brood parasites, were uncommon in the southwest campground and probably not important sources of nest mortality.

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NOU FALL COUNT 1996; NAMC COUNT IN TWO COUNTIES 10 MAY 1997

The NOU count during Fall Field Days 27-28 September 1996 was centered at the Nebraska National Forest (NNF), which is mostly in Thomas County, and also included Thomas outside the forest and three other counties: Cherry, Brown, and Blaine (see Table 1). The total number of species was 116 compared to 103 for the same area about 10 days later in 1995. Twelve species seen in 1995 were absent in 1996, and 22 species seen in 1996 were absent in 1995.

North American Migration Counts (NAMC) for Boone and Sarpy Counties on 10 May 1997 are included in Table 1. The conditions for Boone County were as follows: partly cloudy, wind S-SW at 20-30 mph; temp. 33°F in A.M.; compiler, Wayne Mollhoff. The count, made between 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., was part of a field trip for the Albion bird identification class.

The count in Sarpy County was made between 5:45 A.M. and 8:15 P.M.; temp. in the 60's (F) A.M., wind mild, 10% cloud cover; temp. in the 80's P.M., wind brisk, no cloud cover. There were 27 observers in 14 parties, and they covered 32.5 miles on foot for a total of 42.5 hrs, and 270.5 miles by car for a total of 20.5 hrs. The participants were Betty Allen, Roland Barth, Elliott Bedows, Laurine Blankeneau, Nellie Falzgraf, Ruth Green, **Betty Grenon** (compiler), Clem Klaphake, Ray Korpi, Jim and Sandi Kovanda, Jill Medland, Babs and Loren Padelford, Don and Janis Paseka, Spencer Phippen, Carol Rasmussen, Dick Rasmussen, Izen and Neal Ratzlaff, Kathleen Crawford Rose and Robert Rose, Eric Scholar, Winter Smith, Alexander Wilson, Edith Wilson.

Table 1. Bird species observed during NOU Fall Field Days 27-28 September 1996 in four Nebraska counties, with Thomas Co. divided into the portion containing the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) and the portion outside the forest; also, the North American Migration Counts (NAMC) 10 May 1997 in two Nebraska counties. X = species present.

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Pied-billed Grebe		X	X		X		4
Horned Grebe		X	X				
Eared Grebe		X	X				
Western Grebe		X	X				
Am. White Pelican		X	X				
Double-crested Cormorant		X	X			2	117
Great Blue Heron		X	X			1	10
Great Egret							1
Green Heron							1
Trumpeter Swan		X					
Canada Goose		X	X				64
Wood Duck	X	X	X			15	61
Green-winged Teal		X					
Mallard		X	X			35	6
Northern Pintail		X					
Blue-winged Teal		X	X			15	42
Cinnamon Teal			X				
Northern Shoveler		X	X				2
Gadwall		X	X			2	
American Wigeon		X	X				
Redhead		X	X				
Ring-necked Duck		X					
Lesser Scaup		X					9
Bufflehead		X					
Common Merganser		X					
Ruddy Duck		X	X				2
Turkey Vulture	X	X					53
Osprey		X					
Northern Harrier		X	X	X	X		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X				X		
Cooper's Hawk	X	X					1

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Red-shouldered Hawk							3
Broad-winged Hawk							4
Swainson's Hawk	X	X	X		X	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X	1	13
Ferruginous Hawk			X				
Rough-legged Hawk	X						
American Kestrel	X	X	X	X	X		3
Merlin				X			
Ring-necked Pheasant		X	X			5	6
Greater Prairie-Chicken	X			X		1	
Sharp-tailed Grouse		X					
Wild Turkey	X						7
Northern Bobwhite							1
Sora						2	1
American Coot		X	X			9	14
Killdeer		X		X		3	23
Greater Yellowlegs		X					
Lesser Yellowlegs		X	X			20	9
Solitary Sandpiper							1
Spotted Sandpiper							9
Semipalmated Sandpiper		X					5
Least Sandpiper		X					8
White-rumped Sandpiper			X				
Pectoral Sandpiper		X					2
Long-billed Dowitcher		X					
Common Snipe		X				2	
Wilson's Phalarope						10	
Franklin's Gull							1
Ring-billed Gull		X	X				
Forster's Tern							8
Black Tern							11
Rock Dove		X	X			21	57
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	48	142

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Eastern Screech-Owl							1
Great Horned Owl	X			X			
Burrowing Owl		X					
Common Poorwill	X						
Chimney Swift						4	39
Belted Kingfisher		X	X	X	X	1	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X			3	50
Red-bellied Woodpecker						1	51
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X			9	49
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X		1	4
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X	X	6	36
Least Flycatcher							34
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.							18
Eastern Phoebe						2	4
Say's Phoebe	X			X	X		
Great Crested Flycatcher							17
Western Kingbird						3	1
Eastern Kingbird						5	25
Kingbird species				X			
Horned Lark		X	X			4	7
Purple Martin							19
Tree Swallow			X			6	28
Northern Rough-winged Swallow						10	56
Cliff Swallow						20	558
Barn Swallow		X	X	X		20	138
Blue Jay	X	X	X			21	217
American Crow	X	X	X	X	X	14	69
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X				5	77
Tufted Titmouse							37
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X					
White-br. Nuthatch	X	X	X			2	35
Brown Creeper							5
Carolina Wren							1
House Wren	X					18	316

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Marsh Wren		X					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X						3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher							4
Eastern Bluebird	X	X					21
Mountain Bluebird	X						
Townsend's Solitaire	X						
Veery							1
Gray-cheeked Thrush							3
Swainson's Thrush	X						25
Wood Thrush							5
American Robin	X	X	X	X		18	279
Gray Catbird	X					3	47
Northern Mockingbird							1
Brown Thrasher						18	77
American Pipit		X					
Cedar Waxwing	X	X		X			6
Loggerhead Shrike				X			
European Starling	X	X	X			15	324
White-eyed Vireo							1
Bell's Vireo							1
Solitary Vireo							8
Yellow-thr. Vireo							18
Warbling Vireo						4	32
Philadelphia Vireo							1
Red-eyed Vireo							6
Tennessee Warbler							2
Orange-crowned Warbler	X		X			2	12
Nashville Warbler	X						6
Northern Parula							6
Yellow Warbler						8	21
Magnolia Warbler							2
Cape May Warbler							1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X			9	291

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Black-throated Green Warbler							1
Blackburnian Warbler							2
Yellow-throated Warbler							2
Blackpoll Warbler						2	3
Black-and-white Warbler							9
American Redstart							16
Prothonotary Warbler							2
Ovenbird							9
Northern Waterthrush							5
Louisiana Waterthrush							2
Kentucky Warbler							3
Common Yellowthroat	X					12	109
Wilson's Warbler	X						4
Summer Tanager							1
Scarlet Tanager							2
Northern Cardinal	X					4	104
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							25
Indigo Bunting						1	9
Dickcissel					X		13
Eastern Towhee	X			X		2	17
Spotted Towhee	X	X					
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X		78
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X			13	7
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X			20
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X		1
Lark Sparrow		X	X			4	9
Savannah Sparrow		X	X	X			3
Grasshopper Sparrow							5
LeConte's Sparrow		X					
Fox Sparrow							1
Song Sparrow		X			X	16	46
Lincoln's Sparrow	X					1	4

Species	Counties in NOU fall count					NAMC counts	
	NNF	Cherry	Brown	Thomas (-NNF)	Blaine	Boone	Sarpy
Swamp Sparrow						3	
White-throated Sparrow	X	X					7
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X				4	1
Harris' Sparrow	X	X				11	7
Dark-eyed Junco	X						
Bobolink						15	
Red-winged Blackbird		X	X	X	X	30	358
Eastern Meadowlark						1	12
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	45	32
Meadowlark sp.							12
Yellow-headed Blackbird		X				2	
Brewer's Blackbird						20	
Great-tailed Grackle						3	
Common Grackle	X	X				10	460
Brown-headed Cowbird						50	230
Orchard Oriole						1	3
Baltimore Oriole						12	119
House Finch	X	X				3	31
Red Crossbill	X						2
Pine Siskin	X	X			X	1	2
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X		50	260
House Sparrow				X		10	230

NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

Lapland Longspurs Road Kill. The 10 April 1997 snowstorm had some devastating effects on Lapland Longspurs in northeast Nebraska. Tom Welstead, Wildlife Biologist in Norfolk, reported counting 103 dead birds in 0.6 miles on Highway 121 south of Battle Creek. Other unconfirmed reports of numerous dead birds on the roads were suspected to be longspurs also. While the extent of the kill was unknown, it may have been widespread. Tom also reported seeing dead birds in the parking lot of a Quick Shop in Burwell days later, apparently deposited by falling from the grilles of vehicles after they had stopped.

----- John Dinan, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

SPRING FIELD REPORT, MARCH-MAY 1997

Compiled by

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INTRODUCTION

First a correction: in the Fall Seasonal Report (NBR 63:101) the account on Whooping Crane listed 2 reports 25 Nov; these should have been **25 Oct.**

This report includes observations, designated (B), reported to the Nebraska Birdline (402-292-5325), operated by Loren and Babs Padelford. While these are anonymous submissions, many are reported to us subsequently by the original observers; those which are not but are significant but unsubstantiated, are indicated herein as such by a phrase like "no details submitted". We have also used this phrase for other unsubstantiated reports herein. Hopefully, observers involved will send us a few details about the sighting. If observers prefer, they may submit reports to Ross Silcock by E-mail at rsilcoc@sidney.heartland.net.

You may also note that we have used the new taxonomic order according to the AOU 41st Supplement recently published. Most notable change for Nebraska is the splitting of "Solitary Vireo" into 3 species, as discussed under Solitary Vireo. Turkey Vulture is now considered a relative of the storks ("Turkey Stork"?), and follows White-faced Ibis. There are other changes also, including re-ordering of the Passerine families.

This spring was notable for a late warbler migration, with several species lingering. On the other hand, very early sparrows were noted, along with record early American Golden-Plover and House Wren, and 2nd earliest White-throated Swift and Cassin's Kingbird. Species reported in low numbers and thus of concern included Purple Finch, but huge numbers of Western Grebes occurred at LM.

Among significant reports herein, the following stand out: a Tricolored Heron, without details however, in Lancaster Co, potential 1st state record Emperor Goose, 1st state record Garganey, Barrow's Goldeneye in the east, 5 Snowy Plovers in the RWB, several Mountain Plovers, including a nest, sw of the Kimball airport, 45 Whimbrels in a flock in Lancaster Co, the 7th Laughing Gull for the state, the 3rd Little Gull for the state, Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls at LM, Violet-green Swallow at HCR, a late Townsend's Solitaire in the extreme east, the 9th and 10th ever spring Sage Thrasher records, only the 6th White-eyed Vireo since 1990, 1st state record Cassin's Vireo, the 1st Panhandle Golden-winged Warbler, the 6th eastern Western Tanager in Omaha, also tying the record earliest date ever, and the discovery of McCown's Longspur in Knox Co after the big 10 Apr snowstorm and Smith's Longspurs at the same time in Washington Co.

We were almost overwhelmed by many excellent reports from outstanding and active observers. We processed well over 3000 records (thank goodness for computers) from which to distill this report. Believe it or not, it's fun though and fascinating to see the "big picture" emerge for each species. Keep 'em coming!

ABBREVIATIONS

Initials in parentheses refer to the observers, listed at the end of this report. * = documentation submitted and passed to NOU Records Committee. Please refer to Nebraska Bird Review 54:74 for

information about writing documentations, and the Official List of Birds of Nebraska (NBR 65:3) for birds which should be documented. It is also important to document birds which are out-of-season. The best current source of early and late occurrence dates is Dr. Paul Johnsgard's "The Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States" reprinted in 1997 and available from the author at UNL.

ADF: Arbor Day Farm; **BOL:** Branched Oak L; **BSC:** Boy Scout Camp; **Cem:** Cemetery; **CLNWR:** Crescent Lake NWR; **Co(s):** County(ies); **CPBS:** Cedar Point Biological Station; **FF:** Fontenelle Forest; **FL:** Funk Lagoon; **HCR:** Harlan Co Res; **ICSP:** Indian Cave SP; **L:** Lake; **LM:** L McConaughy; **MM:** Mile Marker; **NAMC:** North American Migration Count; **NE:** Nebraska; **NM:** National Monument; **NOURC:** Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee; **NPNWR:** North Platte NWR; **NWR:** National Wildlife Refuge; **R:** River; **Res:** Reservoir; **RWB:** Rainwater Basin, an area of Federal, State, and private basins and wetlands mainly in Phelps, Kearney, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, and York Cos; **SL:** Sewage Lagoons; **SP:** State Park; **SRA:** State Recreation Area; **UNL:** University of Nebraska at Lincoln; **WHNC:** Wildcat Hills Nature Center; **WMA:** Wildlife Management Area (State); **WPA:** Waterfowl Production Area (Federal).

GAZETTEER

ADF: Nebraska City, Otoe Co; **Ashford BSC:** Dakota-Thurston Cos; **Branched Oak L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Carter Canyon:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Clear Creek:** WMA, Keith-Garden Cos; **CLNWR:** Garden Co; **County Line Marsh:** WPA, Fillmore Co; **CPBS:** Keith Co; **Crystal Cove L:** South Sioux City, Dakota Co; **Cunningham L:** Omaha, Douglas Co; **Father Hupp Marsh:** Thayer Co; **FF:** Sarpy Co; **Freeman Lakes:** WPA, York-Seward Cos; **Funk Lagoon:** WPA, Phelps Co; **Hansen Marsh:** WPA, Clay Co; **Harvard Marsh:** WPA, Clay Co; **Hord L:** SRA, York Co; **Holmes L:** Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **Hultine Basin:** WPA, Clay Co; **Indian Cave SP:** Nemaha-Richardson Cos; **Jack Sinn Marsh:** WMA, Lancaster-Saunders; **James Ranch,** Sioux Co; **Kissinger Basin:** WMA, Clay Co; **L George:** Rock Co; **L McConaughy:** Keith Co; **L Minatare:** SRA, Scotts Bluff Co; **L Ogallala:** Keith Co; **Long Canyon:** Banner Co; **Long L:** SRA, Brown Co; **Mallard Haven:** WPA, Fillmore Co; **Nathan's L:** Washington Co; **Neale Woods:** Douglas Co; **North Lake Basin:** WMA, Seward Co; **NPNWR:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Oliver Res:** SRA, Kimball Co; **Ponca SP:** Dixon Co; **Private Marsh:** 2 miles e FL, Kearney Co; **Real Basin:** WPA, Fillmore Co; **(Lillian Annette) Rowe Sanctuary:** Buffalo Co; **Schramm SP:** Sarpy Co; **Sininger Lagoon:** WPA, York Co; **Sowbelly Canyon:** Sioux Co; **Stagecoach L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Sutherland Res:** SRA, Lincoln Co; **Twin Lakes:** WMA, Rock Co; **Wilderness Park:** Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **Willow Creek:** SRA, Pierce Co; **Wolf L:** Saunders Co; **Wood Duck:** WMA, Stanton Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon: Earliest was a single at LM 30 Mar (SD) and high count 7 there 4-13 Apr (SD). At L Ogallala, 2 basic-plumaged birds were present 16-31 May (JH,EH,SD,JGJ,GJ).

Pied-billed Grebe: Earliest was a single at BOL 19 Mar (LE). High count was only 24 at Holmes L 14 Apr (LE).

Horned Grebe: Earliest was a single at Crystal Cove L on 1 Apr (BFH). High counts include 10 at LM 13 Apr (SD) and 9 birds 2 miles w of Wood Duck 15 May (DH). Latest was a single at Sininger Lagoon 19 May (JM).

Eared Grebe: Earliest was a single at Hord L 22 Mar (DH). High count was 230 at CLNWR 9 May (MF). Last away from a breeding area was a single at a farm pond in Madison Co 30 May (DH).

Western Grebe: Huge numbers were found at LM this spring. By 30 Mar, 367 had already arrived (SD); this count grew to 4900 by 13 Apr (SD) and numbers reached 14,500 on 19 Apr (SD). Next highest count was 123 at NPNWR 16 Apr. Rare in the RWB, a single at Mallard Haven 17 May (JGJ) was the only one found in the east.

Clark's Grebe: Reports continue to increase. This spring 7 reports totaling 44 birds were received, all from the west. Earliest were 3 at LM on 12 Apr (SD); high count there was 23 on 26 Apr (SD).

American White Pelican: Earliest were 25 at FL 30 Mar (LR,RH). High counts, both from FL, were 480 on 20 Apr (LR,RH) and 500 on 27 Apr (LR,RH).

Double-crested Cormorant: Earliest were 6 at Willow Creek 21 Mar (DH). High count was 1500 at BOL 27 Apr (LE). Eight active nests at L George and two at Twin Lakes 24-25 May (JGJ) were at previously unknown breeding locations.

American Bittern: As expected, most were reported from CLNWR. Earliest was a single there 20 Apr, high count 11 there 13 May (MF). The only reports away from CLNWR were of migrant birds: 1 at North Lake Basin 25 Apr (JGJ), 1 at Harvard Marsh 25 Apr (JGJ), 2 at North Lake Basin 2 May (JGJ), and 1 in Pierce Co 3 May (DH).

Least Bittern: The only reports were of singles in Pierce Co 10 May (DH) and at North Lake Basin 31 May (JH,EH).

Great Blue Heron: Earliest and probably wintering nearby was a single in Cass Co 8 Mar (GW). By 16 Mar, 4 had already moved north to CLNWR (MF), a non-wintering locale. High count was 50 in the LM area 13 Apr (SD).

Great Egret: Fewer reports were received than expected for several heron and egret species, including this one. Earliest was a single at Father Hupp Marsh 19 Apr (JGJ), a tad later arrival date than usual. High count was 10 at Pilger SRA, Stanton Co, 3 May (DH).

Snowy Egret: The only reports were of singles at Tamora Basin, Seward Co, 7 May (JGJ) and at CLNWR 7-13 May (MF).

Tricolored Heron: A report was received of a single in w Lancaster Co 22 May; no details were provided for what would be only the 3rd NE record.

Little Blue Heron: Surprisingly, no reports were received.

Cattle Egret: High count was a mere 12 at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ). Earliest was a single at Father Hupp Marsh 19 Apr (JGJ) and latest were 4 at Gifford Farm (pasture adjacent to FF) 25 May (BP,LP). Only one was found in the w, a loner at Clear Creek 26 Apr (SD).

Green Heron: About a half-dozen singles were found in the eastern quarter, but a single near the CPBS 13 May (JH) was rather far west. Earliest was a single at ADF 5 May (LF,CF) and high count was 3 at Rowe Sanctuary 31 May (LR,RH).

Black-crowned Night-heron: A major movement was detected in late Apr, when 84 were found in the e RWB 26 Apr (JGJ) and 11 at BOL 27 Apr (LE). Earliest were 2 at Hultine Basin 18 Apr (JGJ).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: No reports were received.

White-faced Ibis: Earliest were 13 at Oliver Res and 2 at LM, both on 18 Apr (SD). High count was 20 at Clear Creek 19 Apr (SD). Numbers in the e half of the state were neither impressive nor disappointing, and none were found e of the RWB. Furthest e was a single at North Lake Basin 24-26 May (JH,EH) and high count in the e was 12 at Kissinger Basin 7 May (JGJ).

Turkey Vulture: Earliest were 2 flying over the Elkhorn R in Stanton Co 14 Mar (DH). High count was 9 at Ponca SP 9 May (JJ).

Tundra Swan: No reports were received.

Trumpeter Swan: The pair which wintered (see Winter Report) at Wolf L remained until 7 Mar (TH). Also in the e, a single was at Wood Duck 14 Apr (DH) and another was seen almost daily in a field in Buffalo Co 29 Mar-12 May (LR,RH); details were provided for both of

these reports. In the w, a pair was 3 miles w of Hyannis 4 May (WM) and nesting was noted at Doc L, Grant Co, 2 and 4 May (WM). Finally, 2-5 were at CLNWR 9-15 May (MF).

Greater White-fronted Goose: High counts were 600 at Private Marsh and 500 at FL, both on 8 Mar (LR,RH). In the e, 140 were at Wolf L 8 Mar (TH) and 70 were in sw Otoe Co 23 Mar (LF,CF). Latest was a single at FL 24 May.

Snow Goose: High count was 400,000 at FL 8 Mar (LR,RH). Many small groups were noted in May at numerous sites in the RWB. Large counts and lingering groups are to be expected as long as the flyway population continues to skyrocket.

Ross' Goose: Reports are too numerous to list. Most observers usually report the few Ross' that can be picked out amongst the Snow Geese, and generally underestimate the true number present. However, counts of 500 at FL 29 Mar (SD), 250 at Sutherland Res 29 Mar (SD), and 187 at Cochran L, Scotts Bluff Co, 19 Apr (SD,WRS) likely better represent the species' abundance. Late birds included 2 at Ayr L, Adams Co, 16 May (JGJ), 1 at Rolland Basin WPA, Fillmore Co, 17 May (JGJ), and 1 at North Harvard Basin, Clay Co, 21 May (BP,LP).

Emperor Goose: A major surprise was the picking up of a dead adult of this species among other cholera-afflicted geese and ducks at Harvard Marsh 17 Mar (*Will Meeks). The bird showed no signs of captivity, but there are no records of vagrants to our knowledge away from the west coast. The documentation has been forwarded to the NOURC.

Canada Goose: At Wood Duck, 8 nesting pairs were noted during May (DH).

Wood Duck: Earliest was a single at Wolf L 2 Mar (TH). High count was 67 at NPNWR 16 Apr (LK).

Green-winged Teal: High count was an impressive 8500 at Harvard Marsh 3 Apr (JGJ).

American Black Duck: No reports were received.

Mallard: High counts included 23,792 at NPNWR 11 Mar (LK) and 3500 at Pintail Marsh WMA, Hamilton Co, 3 Apr (JGJ).

Northern Pintail: High counts included 3000 at Private Marsh 8 Mar (LR,RH) and 440 at NPNWR 11 Mar (LK).

Blue-winged Teal: Earliest was a single at Cunningham L 11 Mar (JGJ). High counts included 200 at Father Hupp Marsh 3 May (JGJ) and 100 at Arbor L 6 May (LE).

Garganey: Again this year a vagrant birder made an excellent find in the central Platte Valley. Last year it was the Common Crane, this year a male Garganey, found 3 miles s of Kearney 28 Mar (*Bill and Mary Kay DeBaets). The documentation has been forwarded to the NOURC, and if accepted would be Nebraska's 1st record.

Cinnamon Teal: Up to 30 individuals were found from FL westward. Very early was a single at CLNWR 6 Mar (MF) and high count was 8 there 12 Apr (SD). Fewer drifted eastward this spring than in the previous two years; none were found in the eastern quarter and the species was unusually scarce in the e RWB (JGJ). Furthest e and the only ones found in the e RWB were singles at Father Hupp Marsh 3 May (JGJ), Sinniger Lagoon 8 May (JGJ), and Weis Lagoon, Fillmore Co, 17 May (JGJ).

Northern Shoveler: This species returned in numbers in early Mar. High count was 1000 at Johnson Lagoon WPA, Phelps Co, 20 Apr (LR,RH).

Gadwall: High counts included 397 at CLNWR 4 Apr (MF) and 276 at NPNWR 16 Apr (LK).

American Wigeon: High counts included 700 at Johnson Lagoon WPA, Phelps Co, 20 Apr (LR,RH), 300 at Kissinger Basin 29 Mar (JGJ,GJ), and 286 at NPNWR 27 Mar (LK).

Eurasian Wigeon: For the 6th straight spring, this species was found in the RWB, this year a male at Kissinging Basin 29 Mar (JGJ,GJ).

Canvasback: High counts included 203 at NPNWR 16 Apr (LK) and 421 at Mallard Haven 4 Apr (JGJ). Latest away from the Sandhills were singles at Wood Duck (DH) and BOL (LE), both on 5 May, and 3 at Freeman Lakes 10 May (JGJ). In the Sandhills, 28 were still present at CLNWR 9 May (MF), where a few breed.

Redhead: High counts included 2338 at NPNWR 11 Mar (LK) and 1400 at FL 8 Mar (LR,RH). At CLNWR, 89 were found 9 May (MF); hopefully this represents a healthy breeding population. This species is the most likely pochard to be found away from breeding areas in May and Jun, and this year several were found at various reservoirs and marshes, including 4 at Wood Duck 5 May (DH), 3 at BOL 5 May (LE), and 5 at the Alma SL 31 May (JGJ,GJ).

Ring-necked Duck: High counts included 160 at NPNWR 16 Apr (LK) and 100 at Hedgefield L, Lancaster Co (LE). This species is rare anywhere in the state by the end of the period; late birds included 3 at Mallard Haven 17 May (JGJ), 1 near Long L 24 May (JGJ), and 2 at L George 24 May (JGJ).

Greater Scaup: The 11 at LM 30 Mar (SD) likely wintered, but migrants apparently arrived soon after as 23 were there and on the adjacent waterways 13 Apr (SD). All other reports include: 1 at Cunningham L 16 Mar (BP,LP), a female at Oliver Res 16 Apr (SD), and 2 at Mallard Haven 26 Apr-8 May (JGJ), the latter a rather late date.

Lesser Scaup: High counts included 637 at CLNWR 4 Apr (MF) and 450 at FL 9 Mar (LR,RH). Like the Redhead, several were reported away from breeding areas, but unlike the Redhead, most were north of the Platte Valley: 1 was at Wood Duck 31 May (DH), 15 were at Twin Lakes 24 May (JGJ), and 10 were at Doolittle L, Holt Co, (JGJ).

Common Goldeneye: High counts included 48 at NPNWR (LK) 16 Apr and 59 at CLNWR 17 Mar (MF).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Following the the discovery of a pair at L Ogallala in Feb (see Winter Report), a sub-adult male was found at LM 30 Mar (*SD). Even more significant was a female photographed at Cunningham L 3 Mar (JGJ*), the first report for the e third of Nebraska in 10 years.

Bufflehead: High counts included 186 at NPNWR 16 Apr (LK) and 125 at CLNWR 17 Mar (MF). Late birds included 1 at Clear Creek 19 May (SD), 3 near Long L 24 May (JGJ), 1 at Doolittle L, Holt Co, 25 May (JGJ), and 2 at CLNWR 27 May (MF).

Hooded Merganser: High counts included 10 at Cunningham L 15 Mar (JGJ) and at Swan L, Cherry Co, 16 Mar (LR,RH). Late were 2 e of Bayard 30 May (AK).

Common Merganser: High count was 3000 at LM 12 Apr (SD). At L Ogallala, 17 were present on 19 May (SD) and 24 on 31 May (JGJ), possibly returning molt-migrants which may not have bred. A male, presumed to be injured, remained 1 mile w of Wood Duck until the end of the period (DH).

Red-breasted Merganser: Earliest were 2 at LM 5 Mar (BP,LP). High counts included 34 at Cunningham L 24 Mar (JGJ) and 54 at L Ogallala 12 Apr (SD), the latter report proving that L Ogallala is about the only locale away from the e quarter where this species is to be expected with any regularity.

Ruddy Duck: Very early so far n were 2 at Wood Duck 2 Feb (DH). High count was 166 at CLNWR 9 May (MF). Several groups were found s of the Platte R late in the period: 6 were at FL 25 May (LR,RH), 17 at Stagecoach L 29 May (LE), 6 at Champion L SRA, Chase Co, 31 May (JGJ,GJ), and 38 at the Alma SL 31 May (JGJ,GJ).

Osprey: As many as 10 were found statewide in the period 2 Apr-9

May. Furthest w were singles at L Ogallala and L Minatare 12 Apr (SD).

Mississippi Kite: Returning for another year were 2 soaring over Ogallala 31 May (JGJ,GJ).

Bald Eagle: A pair was noted nesting in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Apr (AK) and another pair with two young birds was at CLNWR 23 May (MF).

Northern Harrier: Good counts included 21 in s Kimball Co 14 Apr (SD), 11 in s Cheyenne Co 16 Apr (SD), and 7 at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, Phelps Co, 5 Apr (LR,RH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Eight singles were found in 7 cos, latest of which was one at CLNWR 23 May (MF).

Cooper's Hawk: One report of breeding activity would have been nice, but three such reports were received. Nesting was noted in Cass Co in May (JM), a nest was under construction in Omaha at Towle Park in late Apr but was unfortunately abandoned in early May (NR), and a pair was performing courtship flights at Carter Canyon 27 Apr (SD). Additionally, 8 singles were found in 7 cos.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Only known to occur regularly at FF, a single was found there 17 Mar (BP,LP) and a pair 10 May (BP,LP) and 30 May (DH).

Broad-winged Hawk: This species has a well-defined migration period, the end of Apr and the first half of May. This year 6 were found in 6 cos, all in the period 26 Apr-15 May. Only one was found away from the extreme e, a single in Boyd Co 27 Apr (DH,MB).

Swainson's Hawk: Disturbingly few were reported, possibly due to well-publicized problems on the South American wintering grounds with chemical spraying. Earliest, as well as the best count, were only 2 at FL 20 Apr (LR,RH). Late away from a breeding area was a single near Axtell 24 May (LR,RH).

Ferruginous Hawk: High count was 4 in sw Kimball Co 6 Apr (SD). Easterly reports included 1 at Private Marsh 14 Mar (LR,RH) and another at Swan L, Cherry Co, 16 Mar (LR,RH).

Rough-legged Hawk: As many as 9 were found in the s Panhandle 20 Apr (SJD). Last to leave were singles at CLNWR 25 Apr (MF) and in nw Kimball Co 3 May (SD).

Golden Eagle: A single bird was on a nest in Long Canyon 30 May (JGJ, GJ). The only other report was of singles at CLNWR 21 Mar and 16 Apr (MF).

American Kestrel: Good counts were of 59 tallied from Scottsbluff to L Ogallala 12 Apr (SD) and 38 in Keith Co the following day (SD).

Merlin: All reports were of singles, as follows: 9 Mar at Wolf L (TH), 20 Apr at NPNWR (SD,WRS), 3 May at NPNWR (JS), and 3 May at Lindau WPA, Kearney Co, (LR,RH).

Peregrine Falcon: More than expected were reported; a total of 22 was found across the state during the period 9 Apr-24 May, half of which were in the RWB. Westerly reports included 1-2 in s Kimball Co 18-19 May (SD) and a single at Clear Creek 3 May (JS).

Prairie Falcon: A single was n of Long Canyon 20 Apr (SD,WRS) and nesting was noted in Long Canyon during the period (SD).

Gray Partridge: Suggestions of this species' imminent extirpation may be slightly premature. The three reports received are encouraging: a single was noted 1 mile w of Laurel 8 May (DH), 2 were 5 miles e and 1.75 miles n of O'Neill 18 May (DH), and a single was found in Dixon Co 24 May (JJ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports were routine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports were routine.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Not yet well-established in the s Panhandle, 20 were found in sw Banner Co 12 Apr (SD) and a single was in sw Kimball Co 4 May (SD). The possibility that these birds wandered south during the winter cannot be ruled out, but if evidence can be

obtained that the species breeds in the area it would be significant.

Wild Turkey: Reports were routine.

Northern Bobwhite: Panhandle reports, where it is uncommon, included a single at CLNWR 9 May (MF), another at the Gering Cem 14 May (AK), and 3 e of Scottsbluff 24 May (AK).

Virginia Rail: On 30 Mar, 4 were found at Clear Creek (SD), possibly birds which overwintered. Up to 6 were found at Twin Lakes 25 May (JGJ).

Sora: Earliest was a single at Tamora Basin, Seward Co, 2 May (JGJ). High count was 5 at Nebraska City 11 May (BP,LP).

American Coot: High count was 386 at CLNWR 4 Apr (MF). Young had already fledged at Wood Duck by 5 May (DH).

Sandhill Crane: Furthest e were 16 at Father Hupp Marsh 2 Apr (JGJ) and 16 at Freeman Lakes 18 Apr (JGJ). Latest was a single at FL 25 May (LR,RH).

Whooping Crane: Very early and well-publicized was a single that was found at Rowe Sanctuary 9 Mar (Paul Tebbel, fide LR,RH). The only other report received was of 3 at Rowe Sanctuary 21 Apr (LR,RH).

Black-bellied Plover: Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 25 Apr (JGJ). High counts included 32 at Freeman Lakes 17 May (JGJ) and 27 at Apr L 16 May (JGJ). Latest were 26 in the e RWB 23 May (JGJ). Only three reports were received from the w.

American Golden-Plover: Numbers were spectacular this spring; high counts included 273 at Freeman Lakes and 206 at Real Basin, both on 17 May (JGJ). Earliest ever was a single near Nathan's L 21 Mar (JGJ).

Snowy Plover: This species appeared in unprecedented numbers this spring, with 5 different birds in the RWB. Singles (all *JGJ) were found at Real Basin 2-4 May, North Harvard Basin 2-4 May, Father Hupp Marsh 9-10 May, Miller's Pond, Fillmore Co, 9-10 May, and Sinninger Lagoon 17 May.

Semipalmated Plover: Earliest was a single at Rolland Basin 18 Apr (JGJ). High counts included 52 there 3 May (JGJ) and 26 at Harvard Marsh 7 May (JGJ). Latest were 2 at County Line Marsh 23 May (JGJ).

Piping Plover: All reports of migrants were from the RWB, where 7 were noted 2-19 May (JGJ,WRS,JM). At LM, the 2 found on 18 Apr (SD) increased to 10 on 26 Apr (SD), and 8 nests were found 18 May (SD).

Killdeer: Reports were routine, except that many were found in strange places during the snowstorm which occurred 10 Apr, such as at feeders, wandering around on city lawns, and especially along roadsides.

Mountain Plover: The sw Panhandle was well-covered this spring by SD and JS. SD found a pair of this species in sw Kimball Co 25 Apr, a single displaying w of Kimball 4 May, and 4 plus a nest s of Kimball 18 May; JS found 2 birds 4 May in overgrazed pasture and a single the same day, both sw of Kimball. Since about 1994 it has become apparent that Mountain Plovers are occupying stony wheat-fallow areas in a rectangular area about 5 miles wide (e-w) and 10 miles long (n-s) with the Kimball airport at its ne corner.

Black-necked Stilt: A pair was found at the traditional locale in Sheridan Co at MM106 on Highway 2. The only other reports were from CLNWR, where 1-3 were found 7-17 May (MF,JS,JH,EH).

American Avocet: Earliest were 3 at Hultine Basin 18 Apr (JGJ). High counts included 70 at Harvard Marsh 3 May (JGJ) and 68 at L North, Platte Co, 20 Apr (DH). Last away from breeding areas were singles at BOL 18 May (LE) and Sinninger Lagoon 23 May (JGJ).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest was a single at Stagecoach L 26 Mar (LE). High count was 62 at Hultine Basin 3 Apr (JGJ). Late birds

included singles at Smith WPA, Clay Co, 23 May (JGJ) and CLNWR 30 May (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Earliest was a single at Stagecoach L 26 Mar (LE). Excellent high counts included 211 at Hansen Marsh and 189 at Kissinger Basin, both on 25 Apr (JGJ).

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at NPNWR 26 Apr (SD). High count was 4 at Arbor L 6 May. Last was a single in Otoe Co 18 May (LF,CF).

Willet: Earliest were 2 at Hultine Basin 18 Apr (JGJ). High counts included 23 at Harvard Marsh and 34 at Mallard Haven, both on 3 May (JGJ). Last away from breeding areas was a single at County Line Marsh 19 May (JM). Singles or pairs near Long L, Willow L WMA. Brown Co, L. George, and Twin Lakes 24-25 May (JGJ) were likely breeding birds near the eastern limit of the species' breeding range in NE.

Spotted Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at NPNWR 26 Apr (SD). High count was 3-4 in late May at Wood Duck (DH).

Upland Sandpiper: Earliest were in Hamilton Co 26 Apr (BWN). No more than 4 were reported at any location.

Whimbrel: Reports were unusual this year in the number of birds found and because all were from the east, whereas historically most reports have been from the west. Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 4 May (*JGJ,WRS), followed by another at Freeman Lakes 17 May (*JGJ), then an incredible 45 at BOL 18 May (JM), one of which was still there the following day (*BP,LP), and finally another single at Jack Sinn Marsh 18 May (JM).

Long-billed Curlew: Earliest were 2 at CLNWR 27 Mar (MF), where the season's high count of 7 was recorded 3 Apr (MF). A pair was w of Long Canyon 3 May (SD), a date suggestive of breeding in an area where breeding has not been recorded. A single chasing an American Crow in extreme sw Rock Co (JGJ), a pair at one locale in nw Brown Co (JGJ), and another single elsewhere in nw Brown Co, all on 24-25 May (JGJ) were at the eastern edge of the species' breeding range in NE.

Hudsonian Godwit: Good numbers were encountered this year. Earliest and right on schedule were 13 at Hultine Basin 18 Apr (JGJ). High counts included 29 at Hansen Marsh 16 May (JGJ) and 48 at Sinninger Lagoon the following day (JGJ). Last to leave were 3 at FL 25 May (LR,RH).

Marbled Godwit: Earliest were a single at Freeman Lakes 18 Apr (JGJ) and 14 at LM 19 Apr (SD). High counts, the first unexpectedly far e and late, included 25 at Jack Sinn Marsh 18 May (JM) and 23 at NPNWR 26 Apr (SD). Latest was a single near Bayard 30 May (AK).

Ruddy Turnstone: It is probably safe to write that the 14 reports totaling 76 birds this spring is unprecedented. A quick review of past spring reports indicates that 1-3 birds is typical. Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 7 May (JGJ). High counts included 21 at Sinninger Lagoon 17 May (JGJ) and 12+ at BOL 18 May (JM), the former the best single-locale count ever. Latest were 6 at BOL (BP,LP) and a single in Otoe Co (LF,CF), both on 19 May.

Red Knot: The only report, without details, was of a single at CLNWR 22 May (TLE).

Sanderling: Numbers were slightly lower this spring, with the high counts only 19 at Harvard Marsh 4 May (JGJ,WRS) and 18 at NPNWR 15 May (LK). The latter has hosted large numbers in previous springs. Earliest was a single at Wood Duck 30 Apr (DH) and latest were 2 at Freeman Lakes and 1 at Island Basin, both 23 May (JGJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Earliest were 18 at Harvard Marsh 19 Apr (JGJ). High counts included some 800 at County Line Marsh 21 May (BP,LP), 400 at Freeman Lakes 18 May (JGJ), and 150 at BOL 13 May

(LE). Less common to the w, 4 were at Clear Creek 26 Apr (SD). A few can be found into very early Jun.

Western Sandpiper: This is a very low-density migrant throughout the region in spring, even at Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas. Details are appreciated for spring sightings, such as those that were provided for 2 found at CLNWR 16 May (JS) and 8 in the e RWB 3-4 May (JGJ).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest were 2 at Sinniger Lagoon 18 Apr (JGJ). High counts were 110 at Freeman Lakes 16 May (JGJ) and 51 at CLNWR 29 Apr (MF). Latest was a single at FL 25 May (LR,RH).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Earliest was a single, identified by the white uppertail coverts, at Wilkins WPA, Fillmore Co, 26 Apr (JGJ). Excellent high counts include 3600 at Freeman Lakes 17 May (JGJ), 870 at Mallard Haven 16 May (JGJ), and 630 at County Line Marsh 23 May (JGJ). Migration lasts into early Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at Nathan's L 21 Mar (JGJ) followed by several found at a variety of locales 29 Mar (mob). High counts included 170 in a plowed field in Clay Co 3 May (JGJ) and 75 at CLNWR the same day (MF). Latest were a total of 44 in the e RWB 23 May (JGJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A few can be expected to drift n by the end of Mar with flocks of Baird's, as apparently did a single at FL 29 Mar (SD). High counts included about 100 at County Line Marsh 21 May (BP,LP) and 61 at Real Basin 7 May (JGJ). Latest were 3 at FL 24 May (LR,RH).

Dunlin: This is another uncommon shorebird which was found in excellent numbers. Unprecedented single-locale high counts included 62 at BOL 21 May (JS) and 36 at Mallard Haven 26 April (JGJ). Earliest were 1 at FL 30 Mar (LR,RH) and 2 at North Lake Basin 3 Apr (JGJ) and latest were 11 at County Line Marsh and 2 at Freeman Lakes, both on 23 May (JGJ).

Stilt Sandpiper: Earliest were a single at Theesen Lagoon, Adams Co, 25 Apr (JGJ) and 2 at FL 27 Apr (LR,RH). High counts included 625 at Mallard Haven 16 May (JGJ), 206 at Clear Creek 19 May (SD), and 200 at FL 24 May (LR,RH). Last report was from FL 25 May (LR,RH).

Ruff: Likely the top shorebird find for an excellent shorebird season was a black-morph male at FL 24 May (*LR,RH). This will provide the 3rd record for NE, if accepted by the NOURC, interestingly all within a 10 mile radius.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The migration corridor used in spring is narrow and stopovers are primarily in the RWB. Evidence is accumulating that the corridor is centered on Thayer, Fillmore, York, and Platte Cos. Smaller numbers occur in the counties on either side of these, and still fewer e and w of there. In York Co Lee Morris has regularly found large numbers (into the hundreds) in spring, while in Hamilton Co Byron Nilson reports that he is "never surprised to see it in spring" but "[has] never seen hundreds like Lee Morris." This year, almost all were found in the center of the corridor and in the RWB. Earliest were 9 at Father Hupp Marsh 3 May (JGJ). High counts included 162 just w of Freeman Lakes 10 May (JGJ) and 116 birds 4 miles s of Shickley 17 May (JGJ). Last were 13 just n of the RWB in Platte Co 24 May (JGJ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: The numerous reports this spring suggest that a recent review (NBR 64:74) may have understated this species' abundance in NE. A tad early, but identified by call, were 5 near Wood Duck 30 Apr (DH). Other reports accompanied by details include: 3 at Harvard Marsh 7 May (JGJ), 2 at East Harvard Basin, Clay Co, 9 May (JGJ), 5 at Theesen Lagoon, Adams Co, 9 and 16 May (JGJ), 2 at Hansen Marsh 16 May (JGJ), 22 at Father Hupp Marsh 16 May (JGJ), 31 at Mallard Haven 16 May (JGJ), 15 at Freeman Lakes 17

May (JGJ), 1 at County Line Marsh 19 May (JM), and 1 at Harvard Marsh 23 May (JGJ). Several other reports were received without details, including 125 in Otoe Co 19 May, a likely time and place. Please submit identification details for this species!

Long-billed Dowitcher: Earliest was a single at Hultine Basin 2 Apr (JGJ). Peak migration hit NE on 2-3 May when high counts of 282 occurred at Hansen Marsh (JGJ), 286 at Harvard Marsh (JGJ), and 147 at CLNWR (MF). Last was a lone bird at FL 25 May (LR,RH).

Common Snipe: Migration was at its peak near the beginning of Apr. High counts included 24 at FL 30 Mar (LR,RH) and 38 at Bluewing Marsh WMA, Clay Co, 4 Apr (JGJ). Likely breeders were up to 6 found in wet meadows near Chambers, Holt Co, 25 May (JGJ).

American Woodcock: Arrival is early in the period and difficult to pinpoint. An excellent count was 15 displaying at BOL 25 Mar (JS); 2 were found there 18 May (JM). Other reports included singles 2 miles s of Niobrara 18 May (DH), at Crystal Cove L 14 May (BFH), and at the furthest w known locale, 2-3 were at the Fort Kearny Hike-Bike Trail, Buffalo-Kearney Cos, 9 Mar and 3 Apr (LR,RH).

Wilson's Phalarope: Earliest was a single at FL 20 Apr (LR,RH). High counts included 1113 at CLNWR 7 May (MF) and 350 at FL 24 May (LR,RH).

Red-necked Phalarope: An excellent high count was 250 at one small lake at CLNWR 22 May (TLE). In the n, a single was 2 miles w of Wood Duck 16 May (DH). Elsewhere, birds were found only in the RWB, a surprise for a species expected only in the n and w in spring. Reports from the RWB were: 1 at Harvard Marsh 7 May (JGJ), 2 at Roadside Basin, 9 May (JGJ), 1-2 at Mallard Haven 9 and 16 May (JGJ), 2 at Freeman Lakes 17 May (JGJ), 8 at Miller's Pond, Fillmore Co, 17 May (JGJ), 7 at Sinninger Lagoon 19 May (JM), and 6 at Harvard Marsh 23 May (JGJ).

Laughing Gull: An adult was photographed at Father Hupp Marsh 4 Apr (*JGJ); if approved, about the 7th NE record.

Franklin's Gull: Earliest were 7 in Hall Co 27 Mar (BP,LP) and 3 at FL 29 Mar (SD). No high counts worth mentioning were received. Last to be recorded were 100 in a plowed field 5 miles w of Wisner 29 May (DH,MB).

Bonaparte's Gull: Another primarily eastern migrant which is showing up in numbers at LM, 322 were there 26 Apr (SD). In the central region and away from a reservoir, 50 was a good count at the Odessa Platte R bridge. Earliest was a single at Cunningham L 1 Apr (JGJ) and last were 10 immatures at LM 19 May (SD).

Little Gull: What will likely be the 3rd NE record and first from the w was an alternate-plumaged adult at LM 19 Apr (*SD).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts included 2550 at LM 30 Mar (SD) and 2000 at NPNWR 19 Apr (SD).

Mew Gull: Nebraska's 4th record was an adult in alternate plumage photographed at LM 12-13 Apr (*SD). The 4 records have come in the last 2 years.

California Gull: An adult at Cunningham L 19 Mar (*JGJ) will, if approved by the NOURC, become about the 4th record from the e quarter of the state. At LM, 3 were found 29 Mar (SD) and 27 on 17 Apr (SD). Other reports include a single at NPNWR 20 and 26 Apr (SD,WRS) and another at Oliver Res 19 May (SD).

Herring Gull: High count was 250 on 30 Mar at, of course, LM (SD).

Thayer's Gull: An adult 29 Mar, 2 1st-year and 1 3rd-year birds on 13 Apr, and an adult on 19 Apr at LM were all photographed (all *SD). Hopefully this will begin to provide the needed concrete evidence for the species' generally-assumed regular status in NE. Other reports included 1st-year birds at LM 30 Mar (SD) and 19 Apr (SD).

Iceland Gull: A 1st-year bird was photographed at L Ogallala 30 Mar

(SD) and another was photographed at L Minatare 19-20 Apr (*SD,WRS).

Glaucous Gull: Last to move n were 1st-year birds at BOL 17 Mar (JS), Sutherland Res 29 Mar (SD), LM 29-30 Mar (SD), and LM 12 Apr (SD).

Great Black-backed Gull: Becoming regular, but only at LM, a 3rd-year bird was there 12-13 Apr (*SD).

Caspian Tern: Earliest was a single at Pawnee L, Lancaster Co, 8 May (LE). An excellent high count was 28 at BOL 21 May (JS). Still rare, but becoming more regular, in the w a single was at L Ogallala 12 May (JH,EH).

Common Tern: All reports listed were accompanied with details, very much appreciated. Most were observed in the LM area and these include: a single at CPBS 16 May (JH,EH), an adult at L Ogallala 18-19 May (SD), up to 14 at LM 18-19 May (SD), 2 at Clear Creek 19 May (SD), a single at BOL 19 May (JM), a single at Pawnee L, Lancaster Co, 10 May (JS), and 2 at Power Station L 16 May (JS). The other report was a single at a farm pond 6 miles s of Norfolk (DH).

Forster's Tern: First were 1 at Oliver Res and 3 at LM, both on 18 Apr (SD) as well as 1 at Cunningham L the same day (JH,EH). High counts included 79 at LM 18 May (SD) and 50 at BOL 5 May (LE).

Least Tern: The only reports were of singles 6 May, the earliest, in Cass Co (GW), and 16 May at both LM (JS) and CPBS (JH,EH).

Black Tern: Earliest were 4 at CLNWR 25 Apr (MF). High counts included 121 at Nathan's L 14 May (BP,LP) and 40 at L North, Platte Co, 16 May (LR,RH).

Rock Dove: Reports were routine.

Mourning Dove: Arriving birds were led by 1 in Cass Co 15 Mar (GW) and another in Norfolk 19 Mar (DH). In the west first were 2 at CLNWR 27 Mar (MF).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Barely making it into this report, other than an early bird in Cass Co 15 May (GW), were 1 at Wood Duck 23 May (DH) and another at Schramm SP 26 May (JS). None were reported w of these locations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Earliest were 2 at Ashford BSC 18 May (BFH,LR,RH) and 1 at FF 21 May (B). None were reported w of Lancaster Co, where 2 were at Wilderness Park 29 May (LE).

Common Barn-Owl: Earliest were 2 at a traditional road cut location n of Clear Creek 26 Apr (SD). Rather far n at any time of year was 1 at Calamus Res in Loup Co, 24 May (JGJ). Other reports were from the LM area (SD,JH) and Scotts Bluff Co (AK).

Eastern Screech-Owl: A red morph bird was seen in Dixon Co 1 Mar (JJ); this color morph constitutes less than 10% of the population in n and w NE.

Great Horned Owl: Two young were on a nest at Alma 9 May (GH).

Burrowing Owl: Earliest was 1 at CLNWR 1 Apr (MF), a rather early date. An excellent count of 13 was s of Lyman 27 Apr (SD), 7 were in se Cheyenne Co 16 Apr (SD), and it was noted at CPBS 14 May (JH,EH). There were no easterly reports.

Barred Owl: Near the currently known n and w edge of the NE range were 1 at Basswood WMA, Dakota Co, 10 May (BFH), 2 at BOL 18 May (JM), and 1 at Wilderness Park 19 May (LE).

Long-eared Owl: Last presumed wintering birds were 3 at Standing Bear L, Omaha, 30 Mar (B); while it is assumed that winter roosts contain winter visitors, this may not be a safe assumption, and such sites should be checked for nesting birds in Apr-May.

Short-eared Owl: Earliest was 1 in nw Hall Co 18 Mar (B), followed by another at BOL 25 Mar (JS). The only other reports were of singles in Kimball Co 6 Apr and 3 May (SD).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Exciting, even though from an apparently

regular summering area, the Pine Ridge from Chadron SP westward (Rosche, Birds of Northwest Nebraska and Southwest South Dakota, 1982), was 1 calling at a campground in West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co, 3 May (WM). Nesting has not been documented in NE this century, and only once in all, from Otoe Co.

Common Nighthawk: First were singles in Lincoln 14 May (B) and at Wood Duck 15 May (DH). First in the w were singles at CLNWR 28 May (MF) and s of Gering 19 May (AK).

Common Poorwill: Earliest was 1 at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH). Unusual but not unprecedented was 1 n of Verdigre 18 May (DH); there are reports eastward to Knox Co. A nest with eggs was found in West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co, 30 May (WM).

Chuck-will's-widow: None were reported by the end of the period, even though arrival usually is in mid-May. Perhaps the cool spring was a factor in food availability or in suppression of calling.

Whip-poor-will: Earliest was 1 at Basswood WMA, Dakota Co, 10 May (BFH), followed by a good count of 10 n of Verdigre 18 May (DH).

Chimney Swift: First was at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 20 Apr (B), followed by another in Cass Co 25 Apr (GW). Westerly, none were noted prior to 24 May, when 1 was s of Gering (AK), and 30 May, when 6 were in Kimball (JGJ).

White-throated Swift: The only reports were from a dependable site, Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff Co, where 7 were counted 20 Apr (SD), the 2nd earliest ever, and 10 on 6 May (AK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Earliest was 1 at a Bellevue feeder 6 May (B), probably a survival tactic at that date in this cool spring, and another was in Douglas Co 10 May (B). Intriguing was a report of a hummingbird unidentified to species in Hamilton Co 17 May (BWN); although likely a Ruby-throated, unusual hummingbird species have been showing up in odd places recently.

Belted Kingfisher: Reports were routine.

Lewis' Woodpecker: None were reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two at ADF 19 Mar (LF,CF) probably wintered there, as it was reported in Feb (see Winter Report). Migrants were led by 1 in Dixon Co 26 Apr (JJ) and another at Rowe Sanctuary 1 May (LR,RH). First in the w was at WHNC 24 May (AK).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: As many as 8 were near HCR 8-10 May (GH); now common there, it was unrecorded in Harlan Co until 1953, and now occurs throughout the Republican Valley.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only reports of this uncommon migrant were of 1 in Bellevue 11 Apr (B) and another at the Fort Calhoun Cem 23 Apr (JGJ), the latter a rather late date.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: One was feeding young at FF 28 May (NR).

Northern Flicker: The last "red-shafted" were near Valley 5 Apr (B) and in Dixon Co 21 Mar (JJ). First noted at James Ranch was a "red-shafted" 30 Mar (SL). First "yellow-shafted" at James Ranch was 20 Apr (SL). Best count was a modest 8 at BOL 3 Apr (LE).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First was at Elmwood Park, Omaha, 9 May (CEJ), a rather early date, followed by 1 at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ,LR,RH) and 1 far to the w in Sowbelly Canyon 23 May (TLE). There are not many panhandle reports all-time; this spring all but this 1 were noted in the Missouri Valley counties.

Western Wood-Pewee: The only report was 1 in the Gering Cem 14 May (AK), rather early.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: All reports were from the e; earliest 2 in Dixon Co 10 May (JJ) and another in Cass Co 15 May (GW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: None were reported.

Acadian Flycatcher: The only reports were from Neale Woods 25 and 29 May (B). No details were provided.

Alder Flycatcher: No identification details were provided for

singles rather early in Bellevue 11 May (B) or at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ), while 4 were identified by vocalizations at ICSP 24 May (JS), a more usual arrival time for this species.

Willow Flycatcher: First for this statewide migrant were not unexpectedly early, but reported without details: singles were on the NAMC in Pierce Co 10 May and at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH). Vocalizing birds were at Bazile Creek WMA, Knox Co, 18 May (DH) and BOL 21 May (JS).

Least Flycatcher: First were at ADF 7 May (LF,CF) and FF on 9 May (BP,LP), and the last at Valparaiso 29 May (JH,EH). Best counts were 20 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 12 at FF on 9 May (BP,LP). Furthest w for this statewide migrant were 1 at Halsey, where usually more are seen (RG), and another at CPBS (JH,EH), both on 12 May.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The only reports before the end of the period were of vocalizing birds on 31 May at 3 locations in the Pine Ridge, suggesting that new locations other than the traditional site in Sowbelly Canyon are being occupied, as predicted by Grzybowski in 1992. Singles were at Smiley Canyon, Sioux Co, and East Hat Creek Canyon, Sioux Co, and 2 were at Gilbert-Baker WMA in Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co (JS).

Eastern Phoebe: First for this early migrant were in the extreme se, where singles were at Omaha (B) and in Cass Co (GW) on 20 Mar. A rare migrant in the panhandle, 1 was in Long Canyon 27 Apr (SD), and, rare but regular as a breeder in the Pine Ridge, a pair was in Hat Creek Canyon, Sioux Co, 23 May (TLE).

Say's Phoebe: First was rather early at Mormon Island WMA, Hall Co, 28 Mar (B), followed by another at Chimney Rock, Morrill Co, 23 Apr (AK). Easterly reports were from Dixon Co 4 and 22 May (JJ); reports from the e in recent years are few. Best count was 18 in w Banner Co 4 May (SD).

Great Crested Flycatcher: First was at Rock Creek Station SRA, Jefferson Co, 7 May (JGJ), followed by singles at FF (BP,LP) and in sw Hall Co (LR,RH) on 10 May. Best count was 8 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS). All reports were from the e.

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports were from the panhandle, earliest 4 May near I-80 Exit 1 (SD), the 2nd earliest ever. Next were singles in Kimball and Banner Cos 30 May (JGJ) and 2 in East Hat Canyon, Sioux Co, 31 May (JS).

Western Kingbird: Earliest was rather early in Buffalo Co 30 Apr (John Kozak fide LR,RH), followed by singles in Kimball and Scotts Bluff Cos 4 May (SD). The northeast was reached 9 May by 2 in South Sioux City (BFH).

Eastern Kingbird: First were a single at CLNWR 4 May (MF) and singles at BOL (LE) and in Hamilton Co (BWN) 5 May. Best count was 18 in Otoe Co 18 May (LF,CF).

Horned Lark: These birds were very numerous in w NE 12 Apr, with 1800 in a flock near Bushnell, and 6750 along 10 miles of road near L Minatare (SD).

Purple Martin: Rather early for this early-arriving species was 1 at Theesen Lagoon, Adams Co, 4 Apr (JGJ); no more were reported until 20 Apr in Cass Co (GW). Most reports were from the e, with the exception of a colony in a dead tree at Willow L SRA in Brown Co (RG). In recent years reports of nesting in natural settings are few.

Tree Swallow: Earliest were 2 at Wagontrain L, Lancaster Co, 26 Mar (LE), a rather early date, and 7 at Crystal Cove L 10 Apr in a snowstorm (BFH). Now occurring at scattered locations virtually statewide, best count was 39 as far w as CLNWR 21 Apr (MF).

Violet-green Swallow: Apparently the easternmost report with details ever was 1 seen by observers from Oregon on a wire at HCR

8 May (GH); there are undocumented reports for Adams, Brown, and Cuming Cos. With patience, it seems that a few should be found in migrant swallow flocks as far e as central NE. The only other report was of 1 in Sioux Co 23 May (TLE).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Earliest were at FF 2 Apr (B), followed by others there 15 Apr (B) and 4 at Nebraska City 16 Apr (LF,CF). Best count was 60 at Stagecoach L 29 May (LE). First in the w were at CPBS 11 May (JH,EH) and s of Gering 14 May (AK).

Bank Swallow: First were at FF 15 Apr (B), rather early, and at County Line Marsh 26 Apr (JGJ), also the westernmost. Best count was 50 w of Peru 25 May (LF,CF).

Cliff Swallow: First was a single in the w at Winters Creek L, NPNWR, 26 Apr (AK), followed by 5 in Buffalo Co 27 Apr (LR,RH). Best count was 100 at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ).

Barn Swallow: First were 3 at Wood Duck 15 Apr (DH) and 2 in Hamilton Co 17 Apr (BWN). Best count was 50 on 8 May in Dixon Co, where the species arrived 10 days later than usual (JJ).

Steller's Jay: The wintering birds at Carter Canyon departed "around 15 Apr" (Edson Ewing fide SD), or more specifically 13 Apr (AK).

Blue Jay: Still of note in parts of the w, 4 were at CLNWR 11 May (MF).

Pinyon Jay: Last at the WHNC were 5 on 11 May (AK) and the last at the James Ranch feeders were 28 Apr (SL). There were no other reports; numbers are lowest in summer.

Clark's Nutcracker: Exciting was the apparent breeding of this species in at least 2 locations; there is only 1 prior report, that in Sowbelly Canyon in May 1987. Birds which wintered at Morrill brought a young bird with brown feathering in its wings to the feeder 7 May and 1 bird was still present 31 May (ECT,AK). Two additional nestings were reported without details in the Pine Ridge (WM). Two small flocks were in Sowbelly Canyon 22-23 May (TLE), and others were in West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co, 3 and 30 May (WM). There appears to have been a major influx this winter with several birds remaining into summer for the first time since 1987.

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly reports were of 3 birds 2 miles w of Fairbury 8 May (JGJ) and 3 birds 6 miles nw of Fairbury 14 May (GH), as well as 1 in w Lancaster Co 8 May (LE). As many as 10 were counted for the NAMC in Pierce Co 8 May.

American Crow: Best count was a modest 200 in Howard Co 2 Mar (LR,RH), probably early migrants. Peak movement is in Mar-Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Mountain Chickadee: The winter influx tailed off with 1-2 remaining at WHNC until 19 Apr (SD), 2 at Gering 18 Mar (AK), and 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Apr (AK), location not specified. An indication that it may indeed not have ended were single singing birds 27 Apr at Scotts Bluff NM, 3 May at Long Canyon, and 4 May at Winters Creek L, NPNWR; the observer (SD) wondered how many of these would breed.

Tufted Titmouse: Individuals were reported as far w as Rock Creek Station SRA, Jefferson Co, 25 May (WRS), a little w of the expected range.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Few were reported from non-breeding locations, the last at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 1 May (LE). At expected summer locations, nesting was noted at Halsey (RG) and in Sioux Co, where a nest with eggs was found (WM), and 2 were at WHNC 11 May (AK).

White-breasted Nuthatch: At Gering, where it is only a winter visitor, the last was noted 2 Mar (AK). A nest with eggs was seen in Dawes Co (WM), a regular summering location.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Good numbers, including nesting birds, were noted at sites in Sioux and Dawes Cos where nesting has been presumed but

little-documented; 25 birds, including at least 9 pairs and up to 6 nest sites were noted 3-4 May at West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co, (WM), and several were carrying food 23 May in Sowbelly Canyon (TLE). At a relatively new nesting location, a single bird was at WHNC 24 May (AK).

Brown Creeper: A singing bird remained along North Stream Trail in FF 25 May (BP,LP), presumably breeding at the only known site in the state. Another singing bird in apparently suitable breeding habitat was at Krimlofski Tract, Washington Co, 24 May (JGJ). Winter birds departed by late Mar, last a single in Omaha 30 Mar (NR). None were reported w of Lancaster (LE) and Saunders (TH) Cos.

Rock Wren: None were reported e of CPBS, where 1 was noted 13 May (JH,EH).

Carolina Wren: All reports, of about 11 birds, were in an area bounded by Douglas (B), Lancaster (LE) and Jefferson (JGJ) Cos. Numbers have not been large lately.

House Wren: Earliest, surprisingly, was at CLNWR 31 Mar (MF); this is record early at that location, but no details of identification were provided. Next were singles at ADF (LF,CF) and FF (B) on 18 Apr, but not until 13 May did any show up in the Panhandle; this at James Ranch (SL). Best count was 33 at Wilderness Park 14 May (LE).

Winter Wren: About 5 were reported, all in Douglas and Sarpy Cos in the period 7 Mar-15 Apr (BP,LP,B). The earliest may have been wintering; most migrants pass through in early Apr.

Sedge Wren: At best uncommon in spring, only 3 were reported: singles at Moger Basin WPA, Clay Co, 2 May (JGJ), Jack Sinn Marsh 3 May (LE), and in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC.

Marsh Wren: Probably wintering there, 3 were at Clear Creek 30 Mar (SD). However, 3 at CLNWR 18 Apr (MF) had probably just arrived on this rather early date. Next were 6 in the e RWB 4 May (WRS). Of interest are breeding locations in the area where the eastern and western song types (possibly different species) meet; such a spot was Twin Lakes, where 2 of the western song type (much more varied and aggressive repertoire than eastern birds) were nesting 24 May (JGJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Last was 10 May in Pierce Co on the NAMC, a rather late date; another was at Wood Duck 25 Apr (DH). Only about 7 were reported, all in the e.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First were in Omaha 31 Mar (CEJ) and Cass Co 31 Mar (GW), and last were 2 at FF 19 May (BP,LP). Best count was only 6, at FF 19 Apr (BP,LP). None were reported w of Lancaster Co (LE).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Earliest were in Jefferson Co 20 Apr (JGJ), also the furthest w. Northerly were 2 at Ponca SP 17-18 May (JJ,LR,RH) and 2-4 at Ashford BSC 17-18 May (WRS,LR,RH). Others were w to Wilderness Park 8 and 29 May (LE) and at Rock Creek Station SRA, Jefferson Co, 7 May (JGJ).

Eastern Bluebird: The few reports were from the e; migrants arrive in Mar, such as the first in Dixon Co on 29 Mar (JJ).

Mountain Bluebird: Migrants were first noted s of Gering, where 5 were seen 10 Mar (AK) and at CLNWR, where 9 were noted 15 Mar (MF). Best count was 100 s of Gering 10-12 Apr (AK), and most easterly 2 in Thomas Co 16 Mar (LR,RH). Spring movement is mostly in Mar and early Apr; as many as 32 were still in sw Kimball Co 6 Apr (B).

Townsend's Solitaire: The only eastern report was 1 at Neale Woods 10-11 Apr (B), a rather late date for that far e. Last in the regular winter range were 2 at L Ogallala 3 May (JS), also a rather late date. Also late, and in a potential breeding location, were 2 at Chadron SP, Dawes Co, 25 May (B).

Veery: About 8 were reported, a good spring for this low-density migrant. Two races occur in NE, the eastern rusty race *fuscescens*,

a single described at Wood Duck 12 May (DH), and western *salicicolus*, presumably accounting for 2 birds in Kimball Co 17 May (JS) and probably another at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH), although none of the presumed western birds were described. *Salicicolus* is not rusty and can be difficult to identify; reports from the Panhandle are few. Elsewhere, first were 1 at FF 10 May (B) and 2 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC. The latter were undescribed and, strangely, were the only *Catharus* thrushes reported there. Last was 1 at FF 29 May (BP,LP).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Casual away from the e, 1 was at CPBS 15 May (JH,EH). Other reports were from the Missouri Valley, earliest in Omaha 1 May (CEJ) and last 1 at FF 16 May (DH). A total of about 12 were reported.

Swainson's Thrush: A good spring produced reports statewide, as expected, including high counts of 25 at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ) and 20 at FF 15 May (BP,LP). Earliest was in Omaha 28 Apr (NR) and last 6 in Chase Co 31 May (JGJ); migrants are still moving through in Jun, especially in the w. Earliest in the Panhandle was at Gering 12 May (AK), while best count in the w was 8 at Kimball 17 May (JS).

Hermit Thrush: All reports were from the e; first 1 in Lancaster Co 14 Apr (LE) and last 1 in Omaha 5 May (CEJ). Best count was 5 in Lancaster Co 1 May (LE).

Wood Thrush: Casual as a migrant in c and w NE in spring, singles were at CPBS 14 May (JH,EH) and at Alma 9 May (GH). All other reports were from the e, earliest 2 at Wilderness Park 8 May (LE).

American Robin: Indicating peak migration were high counts of 75 both in Lancaster Co 3 Apr (LE), Dixon Co 10 Apr (JJ), and, in the w, 70 s of Gering 18 Apr (AK). Earliest in the w were 5 at a Chadron feeder 11 Mar (ZU).

Gray Catbird: Uncommon westerly, 2 were at CLNWR 28 May (MF) and a single at CPBS 14 May (JH,EH). Earliest was at ADF 2 May (LF,CF), and best counts 30 at Rowe Sanctuary 31 May (LR,RH) and 12 at Ponca SP 18 May (JJ).

Northern Mockingbird: Reports were all from York Co (BP,LP) southeastward, involving about 11 birds, earliest in Omaha 11 Mar (JGJ), possibly wintering nearby, followed by 1 at ADF 18 Apr (LF,CF). Spring movement is discernible in early Apr in northern parts of the breeding range.

Sage Thrasher: The only reports of this casual migrant in spring were of singles in native grassland n of Long Canyon 20 Apr (SD,WRS) and in sw Kimball Co the same day (SD). These are only the 9th and 10th spring records.

Brown Thrasher: An early bird at Neale Woods 12 Mar (B) may have wintered nearby, while migrants arrived 7 Apr at ADF (LF,CF) and 15 Apr at FF (B), and 6 May in the Panhandle, at CLNWR (MF). Best count was 12 at ADF 5 May (LF,CF).

American Pipit: Reports were statewide, as expected. Earliest was 1 s of Kearney 29 Mar (SD), followed by 2 in Dakota Co 7 Apr (BFH). Tying the latest date ever was 1 at County Line Marsh 23 May (JGJ); elsewhere, latest were 5 in Hamilton Co 29 Apr (BWN). Best count was 30 w of Elmwood 18 Apr (B).

Bohemian Waxwing: After the best winter showing for some time, the only report for the period was of 5 in Carter Canyon 2 Mar (B).

Cedar Waxwing: There were reports through the period, although the only reasonable count was a meager 34 in Phelps Co 5 Apr (LR,RH).

Northern Shrike: Last was a single at Lemoyne 13 Apr (SD); about 7 were reported from Lemoyne westward 11-13 Apr (SD). Last in the e were singles in n Lancaster Co 5 Mar (LE) and in Cass Co 29 Mar (GW).

Loggerhead Shrike: Possibly wintering was 1 in Cass Co 9 Mar (GW);

next reported were singles in Lancaster Co 19 Mar (LE) and Otoe Co 23 Mar (LF,CF). Three were as far nw as CLNWR by 3 Apr (MF) and another was s of Gering 23 Apr (AK).

European Starling: Reports were routine.

White-eyed Vireo: Apparently only about the 6th report for the 1990s was 1 at FF 10 May; no details were provided, however (B).

Bell's Vireo: This species can be locally numerous; 34 were counted at Calamus Res in Loup Co 24 May (JGJ). Earliest were 3 in w Lancaster Co 8 May (LE). Reports were statewide.

Solitary Vireo: Soon to be split into 3 species (AOU; 41st Supplement to Checklist), NE has all 3 of the incipient species (listbuilders?).

Eastern birds will be known as Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*); most if not all e and c NE migrants are probably of this form. All reports of "Solitary Vireo" this spring except 1 (see below) were from the Missouri Valley and thus almost certainly Blue-headed: earliest were singles at Brownville 3 May (LF,CF) and Two Rivers SP, Douglas Co, the same day (JH,EH) and last was 1 in Dodge Co 29 May (DH).

The breeding bird of the Pine Ridge will be known as Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*); the only report of this fairly common bird was of 4 in Sowbelly Canyon 23 May (TLE).

The third, to be called Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*), is represented in NE by 2 specimens in the University of Nebraska State Museum collection: UNSM ZM11878 was collected 8 Sep 1911 at Crawford and UNSM ZM11877 on 13 Sep 1911 also at Crawford. These two birds show little or no contrast between the greenish back and crown, and little or no yellowish wash on the flanks, whereas Blue-headed have greenish backs contrasting with Bluish-grey crowns and yellowish flanks. Observers in the panhandle should carefully check "Solitary Vireos" for Cassin's Vireo; most non-Plumbeous "Solitary" Vireos there should be Cassin's.

Yellow-throated Vireo: All reports were from Cumming Co (LE) eastward; earliest were a single at ADF 6 May (LF,CF) and 2 at FF 9 May (BP,LP). Best count was 4 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS).

Warbling Vireo: Earliest were singles at Wolf L 4 May (TH) and Arbor L 5 May (LE), and, in the w, singles reached CPBS by 12 May (JH,EH) and Scotts Bluff Co 24 May (AK). Best count was 15 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS).

Philadelphia Vireo: Four were reported, about average. Earliest was at FF 13 May (BP,LP) and another was there 25 May (BP,LP,JS). There are few reports away from the east; this spring there were 2, only about the 9th and 10th since 1983: singles were at Calamus Res in Loup Co 24 May (JGJ) and at Rowe Sanctuary, no date or details provided (B).

Red-eyed Vireo: Earliest were 4 in Pierce Co on the NAMC 10 May and 1 at FF the same day (BP,LP). Further w, singles were at Pibel L SRA, Wheeler Co, 24 May (JGJ) and at Champion L SRA, Chase Co, 31 May (JGJ). Best count was 18 at FF 28 May (BP,LP).

Blue-winged Warbler: Only 2 were reported, fewer than in recent years; singles were at Alexandria Lakes SRA, Jefferson Co, 8 May (JGJ) and at Neale Woods 15 May (B). Observers should try to see singing birds which sound like this species and the next to confirm the identification; a carefully-observed "pure"-looking Golden-winged Warbler seen in Dakota Co 18 May (Ron Martin, WRS) alternated between songs of both species and threw in some odd songs for good measure!

Golden-winged Warbler: As many as 8 were reported, as this species is becoming more common in recent years. Most significant was a singing male near Fort Robinson SP in Dawes Co 23 May (TLE); this appears to be the first panhandle record. As many as 3 were at

Ashford BSC 17 May (WRS), 1 was there the next day (WRS, BFH, LR,RH), and another a short distance to the n, still in Dakota Co, mentioned above under Blue-winged Warbler (WRS). Another was westerly in Hall Co 20 May (LR,RH), and the only other Missouri Valley report was of a single at FF 21 May (B).

Tennessee Warbler: This common migrant was well-reported, best counts 45 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS), 21 in Dixon Co 5 May (JJ) and 15 at Wilderness Park 29 May (LE). Earliest were the 21 in Dixon Co 5 May already mentioned and another in Cass Co 6 May (GW). This species becomes rarer westerly; singles were at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, 19 May (SJD) and CPBS 16 May (JH,EH), and 13 were counted at various locations in nc NE 24 May (JGJ). Latest was 1 at ADF 31 May (LF,CF), tying the 3rd latest date ever.

Orange-crowned Warbler: This statewide migrant was well-reported; best counts were 15 in Lincoln 1 May (LE) and 12 at Rowe Sanctuary 4 May (LR,RH). Earliest were singles at Schramm SP 19 Apr (JH,EH) and at Rock Creek Station SRA, Jefferson Co, 20 Apr (JGJ), and latest singles at Pibel L SRA, Wheeler Co, 24 May (JGJ) and in Cuming Co 25 May (LE).

Nashville Warbler: Reports of this mostly eastern NE migrant were from the Missouri Valley except for 1 at HCR 9 May (GH). Earliest were singles at Arbor L 5 May (LE) and in Omaha 7 May (NR), and latest were 2 in FF 29 May (BP,LP), a rather late date.

Northern Parula: About 6 were reported, none w of Jefferson Co (JGJ). Earliest was at FF at a known breeding location 17 Apr (BP,LP); as many as 3 were there 10 May (BP,LP).

Yellow Warbler: Earliest was at ADF 3 May (LF,CF) and in the w at Morrill 5 May (ECT). Best counts were 18 in Pierce Co on the NAMC 10 May and 16 at Wilderness Park 8 May (LE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: This was a good spring for this eastern NE migrant; about 33 were reported, including counts of 7 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 3 at Schramm SP 26 May (BP,LP). Earliest were singles at ADF 13 May (LF,CF) and surprisingly far w for the date at CPBS 15 May (JH,EH). Last was also somewhat westerly at Halsey 30 May (RG).

Magnolia Warbler: Another mostly eastern NE migrant, westerly was 1 at Calamus Res in Loup Co 24 May (JGJ). First was 1 at ADF 8 May (LF,CF) and last singles at Dead Timber SRA, Dodge Co, 29 May (DH) and Crystal Cove L, a female, the same day (BFH). The latter date ties the 3rd latest ever. Best count was 4 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS).

Cape May Warbler: This casual migrant was noted twice: 1 remained in the observers' yard in Bellevue 9-10 May (BP,LP), and another was near Bellevue University 15 May (B).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Reports of the western "Audubon's" race from the Wildcat Hills, where it is a possible but unconfirmed breeder, included 8 at Carter Canyon 20 Apr (SJD) and 1-2 singing 25-30 May near the WHNC (AK,CK). A migrant was near Exit 1 on I-80 19 May (SJD).

Of the remainder of the reports, presumed "Myrtles", earliest were 2 at FF 15 Apr (B), best counts 62 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC and 47 in Wilderness Park 8 May (LE), and last a female in sw Brown Co 24 May (JGJ).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Of only 5 reports, westerly was 1 at Pibel L SRA, Wheeler Co, 24 May (JGJ), tying the 3rd latest date ever; it is also rare in c NE. The others included singles at a Bellevue feeder 7 May (B), Schramm SP 10 May (JS), and at FF 13 May (BP,LP) and 16 May (DH).

Blackburnian Warbler: Following a good spring in 1996, many were reported this year also, a total of about 27, including westerly reports, where it is rare, at L Ogallala 17 May (JS), at Calamus

Res in Loup Co 24 May (JGJ) and 8 miles s of Atkinson 24 May (JGJ). Best counts were 3 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 3 at FF 28 May (BP,LP,NR), the latter date tying the 3rd latest date ever. Earliest were singles at Bellevue 11 May (BP,LP) and in Cass Co 12 May (GW), and latest a single at Neale Woods 30 May (DH), the 2nd latest date ever.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Rarely reported away from FF, 1 was in Cuming Co 25 May (LE). At the FF location, birds were first noted 17 Apr (BP,LP), with 2 the best count, on 10 May (BP,LP).

Palm Warbler: Two races occur in NE; most appear to be the western race *palmarum*, with whitish underparts, but occasional birds with yellowish underparts are reported, possibly the eastern race *hypochrysea*. One reported as an "eastern race" bird was in sw Hall Co 10 May (LR,RH), while a western race bird was in Jefferson Co 15 May (GH). The other reports were unspecified. Earliest were 2 at BOL 27 Apr (JS) and last the western bird mentioned above on 15 May along with a single at FF the same day (BP,LP).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Since 1980, this species has been reported in spring only in 1982 and 1991, but then each year 1993-97. This year 5 were reported, the best for some time, including a female at Hidden L in FF 28 May (JS) and 2 singing males there 29 May (BP,LP), about the 5th record for c and w NE at Pibel L SRA, Wheeler Co, 24 May (JGJ), and another reported without details on the UNL campus in Lincoln 26 May (B).

Blackpoll Warbler: Common in spring, reports were plentiful, with best counts 10 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 9 in nc NE 24 May (JGJ). Somewhat westerly was 1 at CPBS 13 May (JH,EH). Earliest was 1 in Dixon Co 7 May (JJ) and latest a single in Bellevue 31 May (BP,LP).

Cerulean Warbler: In recent years this species has been reported somewhat regularly as far n as Dakota and Dixon Cos; this year 1 was at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ) and 2 were at Ashford BSC 17-18 May, including a female collecting nesting material there 17 May (BFH,WRS,LR,RH). Also a summer resident at FF, first were 2 birds there 13 May (BP,LP), with subsequent sightings through the period (DH,JM). No others were reported.

Black-and-white Warbler: Surprisingly, none were reported w of Pibel L SRA, Wheeler Co, during the period; 1 was there 24 May (JGJ). Earliest was 1 in Lincoln 1 May (LE), best count 9 at FF 9 May (BP,LP), and last 1-2 each at Ponca SP (JJ,LR,RH) and in Dakota Co (WRS) on 17 May.

American Redstart: Reports were w to CPBS, where 1 was noted 15 May (JH,EH). Earliest was 1 at ADF 8 May (LF,CF), and best counts 18 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 12 at Calamus Res in Loup Co 24 May (JGJ). Several were reported present at the end of the period at likely breeding locations in the Missouri Valley at Neale Woods (DH) and Ponca SP (JJ), and at possible locations where there are, however, no recent confirmed reports of breeding, at Wilderness Park (LE), in Hamilton Co, a female (BWN), and at Wolf L (TH). Data from recent years suggest breeding is restricted to the Missouri and Niobrara Valleys and the Pine Ridge.

Prothonotary Warbler: The only reports were as expected from FF, but unexpectedly not at the usual North Stream Trail location; 1-2 singing males were at Hidden L 28-29 May (JS,BP,LP).

Worm-eating Warbler: Reports of this species are few enough in the Missouri Valley, but this spring's only report was from far w at CPBS, on 14 May (JH,EH). There are actually 2 spring panhandle records, 7-16 May 1979 in Garden Co (AB 33:786) and at Alliance 24 May 1959 (NBR 27:50), and it has been recorded at CPBS prior to this year, although in summer, 4 Jul 1992 (Brown et al, 1996). The only other report of Worm-eating Warbler in the w is an amazing

report of "several" in a chokeberry thicket in Scotts Bluff Co 14-16 Oct 1957, one of which was picked up dead, a hatching year bird (NBR 27:73; Klicka, pers comm to WRS).

Ovenbird: Earliest were 2 at Two Rivers SP, Douglas Co, 3 May (JH,EH), and best count 15+ in Sowbelly Canyon 23 May (TLE), where it a common breeder.

Northern Waterthrush: Rare in the w, 1 was at CPBS (where else?) 14 May (JH,EH). Elsewhere, earliest were singles at Rolland Basin, Fillmore Co, 25 Apr (JGJ) and Stagecoach L 29 Apr (LE). Last were singles at FF 23 May (BP,LP) and at FL 24 May (LR,RH).

Louisiana Waterthrush: More than usual were noted at scattered locations in the se. At the "outer limits" were a single at Federation Marsh, Lancaster Co, 10 May (LE) and another e of Rock Creek Station SRA, Jefferson Co, 20 Apr (JGJ). At more usual locations, although still rare, were singles at a public park 3-4 miles s of Neale Woods 30 May (DH), at Mill Hollow 10 May (BP,LP) and Child's Hollow 14 May (DH), both in FF, and at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 18 May (JM). It was also reported in Cass Co 12 May (GW).

Kentucky Warbler: Rather rare as far n as Dakota Co, a singing male was at Basswood WMA, Dakota Co, 18 May (Ron Martin, WRS). At more usual locations for recent years were 1-2 at Neale Woods 8-29 May (B) and 2 singing males at Schramm SP 8 May (JS).

Connecticut Warbler: Rarely reported, and almost impossible to find unless vocalizing, 2 were found this spring, 1 heard at FF 31 May (BP,LP), and another reported without details at L North, Platte Co, 16 May (LR,RH).

Mourning Warbler: Mostly an eastern NE migrant, westerly reports were of 1 at Calamus Res 24 May (JGJ) and far to the west, 1 was well-described in Morrill 27 May, where it was compared with a McGillivray's Warbler (ECT). In the east, earliest were singles at Ashford BSC 17 and 18 May (WRS) and at Towle Park, Omaha, 20 May (NR). Last were 2 at Schramm SP 30 May (BP,LP) and 1 at FF the same day (DH), although early Jun reports are not unusual for this late migrant.

MacGillivray's Warbler: In recent years, observers looking for this species in the Panhandle have had success; this year 5 were reported, all in the period 17-27 May. Singles were at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH), at L Ogallala 17 May (JS) and along Lodgepole Creek e of Oliver Res the same day (JS), at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, 19 May (SD), and at Morrill 27 May (ECT).

Common Yellowthroat: Earliest were singles at Wolf L 4 May (TH) and at ADF 5 May (LF,CF). In the w, none arrived until 24 May, at Winters Creek L, NPNWR (AK). Best counts were moderate: 15 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LE) and 12 the same day in sw Hall Co (LR,RH).

Wilson's Warbler: First to arrive of this statewide migrant was in the w, at Winters Creek L, NPNWR, 4 May (SD). In the e, first were a single in Omaha 8 May (NR) and 2 at Wilderness Park the same day (LE). Last were singles at 4 locations 29 May, all tying the 2nd latest date ever: at FF and in Bellevue (BP,LP), at ADF (LF,CF), and at Dead Timber WMA, Dodge Co (DH). No more than 2 were noted on any day.

Canada Warbler: Of 11 birds reported, all singles, 10 were in the very short period 23-30 May. The exception, reported without details, was 1 at Neale Woods 6 May (B). The previous latest date ever was 28 May, now surpassed by 1 in Dixon Co 30 May (JJ), 1 at Dead Timber WMA, Dodge Co, 29 May (DH), and tied by a single at FF 28 May (BP,LP,NR).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Most reports, as expected in recent years, were from the west, where it is still common; earliest was at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH). Unexpected, however, were 2 reports from the e, where it is casual at best. Singles were at ADF 18 May (LF,CF) and

in Cass Co 17 May (GW).

Summer Tanager: All reports were from Schramm SP, the only regular location for this species. Earliest was 1 found 14 May (JS), and best count was 2 (JM,BP,LP).

Scarlet Tanager: The few reports were from the Missouri Valley, northernmost 2 birds in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS). Earliest were singles at FF 10 May (BP,LP) and a female somewhat westerly near Gibbon 19 May (LR,RH).

Western Tanager: Only the 6th spring record for the east was a bird eating oranges at the observer's feeder in Omaha 3-4 May (NR). This date ties the previous earliest ever for the state; prior easterly reports tended to be early also. In the west, none apparently arrived (or were reported) until 31 May, very late for this species, when 6 were found at various locations in the Panhandle (JS).

Northern Cardinal: Probably at the western limit of its range in the North Platte Valley, or at least where it occurs in any numbers, several were at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, in Apr-May (SD); it is common at Ogallala and at CPBS but was considered sporadic west of Oshkosh by Rosche (1994). In Scotts Bluff Co, where it recently established itself in 1992, 3 were noted (AK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: This species is casual as far w as the Panhandle in spring; this year there were 2 reports. One was at the WHNC feeders 24-25 May (AK,CK), and another was seen in Sioux Co 22 May (TLE). As far w as CPBS it can be numerous; 15 were there 2 May (Brown et al, 1996), and it was common at Halsey this year on 30 May (RG). Elsewhere, earliest were 2 at Wood Duck 6 May (DH), and best counts were 30 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS) and 20 at Ponca SP 18 May (JJ).

Black-headed Grosbeak: At the e edge of the regular range, 1 was near Gibbon 5 May, also the earliest for the period (LR,RH), followed by 1 at CPBS 14 May (JH,EH). Two were banded at Halsey 29 May (RG), where it is rather more common in summer than Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Blue Grosbeak: Of the few reports received, only 1 was from the e, 1 in Cumming Co 24 May (LE). Earliest was in the w, at Gering 22 May (AK). Best count was only 3, at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, 30 May (JGJ).

Lazuli Bunting: Several were reported in w Iowa this spring, but only 2 in eastern NE: 1 was at Bellevue 11 May (B) and another at L North, Platte Co, 16 May (LR,RH). This species is a casual migrant in spring in eastern NE. At Halsey 4 males were banded 29 May and another was seen (RG). Earliest were singles at WHNC 4 May (SJD) and s of Gering 8 May (AK). Best count was 8 s of Gering 18 May (AK).

Indigo Bunting: Furthest w were 2 at Halsey 29 May (RG). Of interest was a hybrid of a common form, blue-bodied with a white belly, rather easterly at Schramm SP 26 May (JS). Earliest was 1 at Wilderness Park 6 May (LE) and best count 12 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS).

Dickcissel: All reports were from Phelps Co eastward. Earliest were 2 in sw Hall Co (LF,CF), 2 in Lancaster Co (LE), and 1 in Pierce Co on the NAMC, all on 10 May. Two were in Phelps Co 11 May (LF,CF). It was thought to be late in arriving (NR). Best count was 35 in Otoe Co 31 May (LF,CF).

Eastern Towhee: Earliest were singles at Wood Duck 19 Apr (DH) and in Dixon Co, a male, 27 Apr (JJ). Most westerly was near Gibbon 26 May (LR,RH); there is probably a breeding population in this area; Easterns occur somewhat further west along the Republican River. Spotted also summer in the Hall Co area, as at Wolf L, where both occur in summer (TH). In Dakota Co, at Ashford BSC, 9 of the 12

towhees observed were phenotypically essentially Easterns; the remainder appeared to be Spotted. Obvious introgressants were not seen, although odd songs were commonly heard. As noted here previously, Spotted and Easterns are about even in numbers a little further west, in Knox Co; all towhees seen at Halsey were Spotted (RG).

Spotted Towhee: See comments under Eastern Towhee. This species occurs in the extreme se only in winter; latest there were singles in Omaha 6 May (NR) and in Lancaster Co 10 May (LE). In the Panhandle, where it occurs in summer, earliest were singles at Gering Cem 26 Apr (AK) and in Carter Canyon 27 Apr (SD).

American Tree Sparrow: Very late, but not unprecedented, were 10 in Pierce Co on the NAMC 10 May. Otherwise, last were singles at the James Ranch feeders (SL) and in s Lancaster Co (LE) on 21 Apr. Best count was 250 in Dixon Co 10 Apr (JJ).

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest were at ADF 8 Apr (LF,CF), and, in the w, 3 were s of Gering 18 Apr (AK). Best count was 133 in Pierce Co on the NAMC 10 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Earliest was reported in Sarpy Co without details, although not unprecedented, 20 Apr (B), followed by singles in Omaha (NR) and near Gibbon (LR,RH) 2 May. Best count was 155 at ADF 14 May (LF,CF). Latest was at L North, Platte Co, 16 May (LR,RH).

Brewer's Sparrow: Reported only from the extreme w, where expected, first were a single in sw Kimball Co and 4 in w Banner Co 4 May (SD), and another was near Exit 1 on I-80 17 May (JS). No others were reported.

Field Sparrow: Rarer westward, 1 at CPBS 12 May (JH,EH) was at the w edge of its range in the North Platte Valley. All other reports were from the e; earliest were at Neale Woods 12 Mar (B), which ties the 2nd earliest ever, although no details were provided, and at ADF 27 Mar (LE). Best count was 72 on the Pierce Co NAMC.

Vesper Sparrow: Earliest was in Dixon Co 30 Mar (JJ) and best count 21 s of Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, 10 Apr (BP,LP). None were reported w of Buffalo Co (LR,RH).

Lark Sparrow: Earliest were singles at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, (SD) and Olive Creek Res, Lancaster Co, (LE) on 26 Apr.

Lark Bunting: Earliest was somewhat easterly at Gleason Lagoon WPA, Kearney Co, 11 May (LR,RH); this, and another n of Scotts Bluff 11 May (AK) were rather late compared to normal arrival dates for this species.

Savannah Sparrow: Earliest were 1 at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, 22 Mar (BP,LP) and 2 near Harvard 27 Mar (BP,LP), best count 40 at Rowe Sanctuary 26 Apr (LR,RH), and latest 5 at Arbor L (LE) and 5 in Otoe Co (LF,CF) on 13 May.

Baird's Sparrow: The only report was a documentation submitted to the NOURC of 1 seen Sarpy Co 12 Apr. This is an early date and rather far to the e of the normal range. The earliest specimen date for this rather late migrant in Kansas and Colorado is 25 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Earliest were not noted until 6 May, at Twin Lakes (JH,EH), a rather late arrival date for this species, which usually arrives in late Mar in s NE. No large counts were reported.

Henslow's Sparrow: The only reports were of a single in Washington Co 11 Apr (GJ), the 2nd earliest on record, and 2 at a regular location, Burchard L, Pawnee Co, on 22 May (B).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Only 3 were reported: singles were in the e RWB 4 May (WRS), at ADF 7 May (LF,CF), and at Jack Sinn Marsh 10 May (LE).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Only 2 were reported of this late migrant: a single at Jack Sinn Marsh on the record early date 10 May (LE) was reported without details, but from a regular location, and another

was singing at County Line Marsh 19 May (JM).

Fox Sparrow: Earliest was at ADF 15 Mar (LF,CF), best count 3 at Wagontrain L, Lancaster Co, 26 Mar (LE), and last 1 in Cass Co 1 May (GW).

Song Sparrow: Migrants appear in mid-Mar; first noted were 1 at ADF 15 Mar (LF,CF) and 4 at Wolf L the same day (TH). Best count was 50, at both Gibbon on 19 Apr (LR,RH) and Wood Duck 15 Apr (DH). Birds still present and singing near the end of May are probably at breeding locations, generally in the north and east, although 3 singing birds at FL 25 May (WRS) continue an isolated breeding population there.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Earliest was at ADF 27 Mar (LF,CF), best count only 8, at ADF 29 Apr (LF,CF), and latest a single at Hat Creek Canyon, Sioux Co, 23 May (TLE); this species is uncommon in the Panhandle, where there were additional reports of singles 6 May at Morrill (ECT) and 14 May at James Ranch (SL).

Swamp Sparrow: Earliest were singles at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 20 Mar (B), where it might have wintered, and at FL 30 Mar (LR,RH), also possibly, but less likely a wintering location. Migrants normally arrive in late Mar. Last of the migrants was at ADF 12 May (LF,CF); 1 at FL 24 May (LR,RH) was probably part of the small summer population there.

White-throated Sparrow: Best count was 50 at Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 1 May (NR). Latest were rather late singles at South Sioux City 21 May (BFH) and in a Bellevue yard until 27 May (KCR). Rare to the w, none were reported w of Jefferson Co (JGJ).

White-crowned Sparrow: No high counts were reported. Last were singles near Gibbon (LR,RH) and in Hamilton Co (BWN) 16 May. None were identified to subspecies.

Harris' Sparrow: Best count was 100 near Gibbon 19 Apr (LR,RH). Latest were singles in Hamilton Co 16 May (BWN) and at Ponca SP 17 May (JJ,LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: The only "white-winged" juncos reported were at a Chadron feeder 13-14 Mar (ZU), presumably returning migrants. The last "oregon" junco at the James Ranch feeder was seen 7 Apr (SL), and 1 was at a Chadron feeder 6-11 Apr only (ZU). The latest "slate-colored" juncos were 1 at Chadron 16 Apr (ZU) and 2 at Norfolk 22 Apr (DH). All other reports were of unspecified forms. Best count was 75 in Dixon Co 10 Apr (JJ), and latest were 1 at Wolf L 3 May (TH) and 2 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC.

McCown's Longspur: The major snowstorm of 9-10 Apr in e NE allowed searchers for rare longspurs to search freshly-plowed roadsides. Totally unexpected, however, was the discovery of a male McCown's e of Creighton in Knox Co 10 Apr (*MB). This is about the time when this species returns to its regular w NE range; 41 were in sw Kimball Co 6 Apr (SD), and 1 was in s Scotts Bluff Co 12 Apr (SD). The Knox Co record is the 5th for e NE, including a specimen collected from a flock of Chestnut-collareds in Lancaster Co 11 Apr 1919, 1 seen in Douglas-Sarpy Cos 21 Apr 1992 after a snowstorm, and 3 undocumented reports in the period 23-30 Mar. A count of 16 was made 4 May at a regular summer location 13 miles s and 8 w of Exit 20 on I-80 in Kimball Co (JS).

Lapland Longspur: Not a rare longspur, incredible numbers were seen after the 9-10 Apr snowstorm, notably "at least" 10,000 in 6 miles of road e of Creighton 10 Apr (MB), 3000 in Dixon Co the same day (JJ), and 1500 in Washington Co also on 10 Apr (JGJ). Of interest, although a little morbid, was the observation of road-killed longspurs in Knox Co 10 Apr being eaten by various avian predators including American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gull, and American Crow. Somewhat surprisingly, in light of the large numbers still present as late as 10 Apr, the latest dates on record for

Lapland Longspur are 15 Apr; latest this spring were "hundreds" near Offut Base L, Sarpy Co, 12 Apr (KCR).

Smith's Longspur: Definitely a rare longspur, apparently only the 9th and 10th spring records for the state were 4 n of Blair (guess the date?) on 10 Apr (JGJ) and 1 in se Washington Co the same day (JGJ). Few of the prior spring reports are documented, but there is a cluster in the period 10-20 Apr, including 3 specimens taken in Lancaster Co 20 Apr 1901 (UNSM ZM7606, 7607, and 7608). The limited data suggest that in spring this species migrates northeastward from its wintering range, crossing only the southeast corner of Nebraska, essentially e of a line from about Webster Co ne to Washington Co. There are no documented spring records outside this area.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: In recent years, reports after Apr snowstorms have shown that this species is a regular migrant in e NE; this year as many as 42 were found n of Blair 10 Apr (JGJ). In w NE, where it is regular in summer, earliest was a single in Kimball Co 30 Mar (SD), and an excellent count of 1045 was made in sw Kimball Co 16 Apr (SD). Eight were present at a regular summer location 13 miles s and 7.5 miles w of Exit 20 on I-80 in Kimball Co 4 May (JS), and many were observed at various locations on Highway 29 s of Harrison, also a preferred summering location, 22 May (TLE).

Snow Bunting: Surprisingly, despite the good numbers noted during the winter, and given late dates of occurrence of 10-11 Mar, none were reported for this period.

Bobolink: Earliest were 1 in n Lancaster Co (LE) and 5 at Wood Duck (DH) on 5 May. Best count was 25 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC.

Red-winged Blackbird: Best counts were 5000 in Dixon Co 13 Mar (JJ) and 1500 at Wood Duck 27 Mar (DH). Females arrive significantly later than males; as late as 4 May a flock of about 1000 females was seen in the e RWB (WRS), and the first female was not seen until 4 May at a Chadron feeder (ZU). The first males were reported in Dixon Co 3 Mar (JJ) and at Chadron 5 Mar (ZU).

Eastern Meadowlark: Earliest were at ADF 11 Mar (LF,CF) and at Cunningham L the same day (JH,EH). Local in the Panhandle, it was reported from Sioux Co 22 May (TLE).

Western Meadowlark: Earliest noted in the w were 1 s of Gering 9 Mar (AK) and another at James Ranch 17 Mar (SL). Best count was 500 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Tying the record earliest arrival date were 4 at Harvard Marsh and 3 just s of Monroe 8 Mar (DH); next to arrive were in Hamilton Co 21 Mar (BWN). Best count was of about 1000 males and females still in a flock 4 May in the e RWB (WRS). A flock of about 200 females was noted on the rather late date (for flocks) of 25 May near FL (WRS).

Rusty Blackbird: Earliest of this uncommon migrant were 2 at FF 10 Mar (BP,LP) and 28 at Cunningham L 14 Mar (JGJ), also the best count. A count of 20 was made 16 Mar at Wood Duck (DH). Last was 1 in a Bellevue yard 11 Apr after the heavy snowstorm (KCR), and 6 were at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, 9 Apr (JGJ). Primarily an eastern migrant, none were reported w of Lancaster Co (LE). Identification of this species and Brewer's Blackbird in e NE should be done with care; some plumages can be confusing.

Brewer's Blackbird: Earliest were 15 in Otoe Co 23 Mar (LF,CF), 1 in Washington Co 9 Apr (JGJ), and, in the w, 1 at James Ranch 22 Apr (SL); arrival in the Panhandle is about a month later than in e NE. Best count was 100 in Clay Co 19 Apr (JGJ), and last were a female in the e RWB 4 May (WRS) and 17 on the Pierce Co NAMC 10 May.

Great-tailed Grackle: Earliest were 2 at FL 22 Mar (LF,CF), a

rather early date, followed by 5 at Wood Duck 27 Mar (DH), a part of the state which is only recently being occupied. Best counts were 35 at Johnson Basin WPA, Kearney Co, 20 Apr (LF,CF) and 26 at FL 25 May (WRS), a regular summering location. Reports away from the current breeding range, centered on the RWB, were 1 at L Ogallala 18 May (SD), 1 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC, and 15, including 9 males, w of Wood Duck 5 May (DH).

Common Grackle: One in Cass Co 5 Mar (GW) may have wintered nearby, as may 1 in Lincoln 11 Mar (LE). Wintering blackbirds tend to be singles, usually males. Migrants were noted 22 Mar, when 5 were at Wolf L (TH), and 24 Mar in the w, when 8 were at Gering (AK). Best count was 1000 in the e RWB 16 Apr (WRS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: One in a Gibbon yard 1 Mar had been wintering there (LR,RH), but 5 near Harvard 8 Mar (DH) were apparent early migrants, as were 2 males in Dakota Co 29 Mar (BFH). Best counts were 600 in Pierce Co 10 May on the NAMC, and 200 in the RWB 16 Apr (WRS).

Orchard Oriole: Earliest were 2 at Wood Duck 8 May (DH) and singles at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 10 May (NR) and at Jack Sinn Marsh the same day (LE). Best count was 16 at Wood Duck 31 May (DH).

Baltimore Oriole: Earliest were 2 near Gibbon 5 May (LR,RH) and 1 in Lancaster Co the same day (LE). Best count was 45 in Dakota Co 17 May (WRS). Westerly reports included 1 at CPBS 11 May (JH,EH) and another in Sioux Co 22 May (TLE). Neither report gave details or noted hybrid characters; this species does occur regularly in small numbers in spring in the Panhandle.

Bullock's Oriole: Earliest were 2 in Kimball Co 17 May (JS) and 1 s of Gering 20 May (AK). None were reported e of Dundy Co, where 3 were noted in the w part of the county 31 May (JGJ).

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch: After a good winter for this erratic species, the only report was of the last 2 to leave a Chadron feeder on 13 Mar (ZU), a rather late date.

Purple Finch: This species is being reported less and less it seems; only 3 were reported, including a female which remained at a Bellevue feeder until 29 Mar (KCR), 1 along Ponca Creek in Knox Co 30 Mar (B), and another at Peru 6 Apr (B).

Cassin's Finch: Following a moderate invasion this winter, 5 remained at the WHNC feeders until 20 Apr (SD). None were reported elsewhere.

House Finch: Reports were routine, including that of 3 fledged in Omaha 30 May (NR), likely the first of several broods.

Red Crossbill: This species occurred in moderate numbers statewide, but, significantly, was still present, usually seen at feeders, in the extreme e at the end of the period: 5 were in Cuming Co 25 May (LE), 2-3 at Schramm SP 18 May (JM) and as many as 25 there 10 May (B), and 5 at Nebraska City 30 May (LF,CF). No evidence of nesting was reported. Best count was a moderate 50, that in one of its usual haunts in the Wildcat Hills 20 Apr (SD).

Pine Siskin: At Halsey, where it now nests regularly, as many as 451 were banded in the period 17 Apr-31 May; many had active brood patches (RG). Signs of breeding activity were noted in birds at UNL (JM), and birds were present at Elmwood Park, Omaha, through 31 May; they bred there 3-4 years ago (CEJ). "Many" were present on the UN-Kearney campus, where they have bred for several years (LR,RH). Two remained at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, through 22 May (LE).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

Evening Grosbeak: This species was much in evidence in the w, with high counts of 80 at WHNC 4 Mar (B) and 75 there 12 Apr (SD); furthest e were at feeders in Buffalo Co, where a male remained at a Gibbon feeder through 15 Apr (LR,RH), and 3 were at the Triplett feeder in Kearney 9 Mar (fide LR,RH). No others were reported e of

the Keith Co area, where 11 were at LM 19 Apr (SD) and 2 were at Ash Hollow SP, Garden Co, as late as 26 Apr (SD). Latest were 12 in Scotts Bluff Co 27 Apr (SD).

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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RED-NECKED GREBE AT SUTHERLAND RESERVOIR

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On 26 September 1996, we saw and photographed a Red-necked Grebe at Sutherland Reservoir in Lincoln County. When we arrived at the northwest end of the lake, Dinsmore noticed a slightly smaller, bigger-headed grebe resting with a couple of Western Grebes. Both of us immediately recognized the bird as a Red-necked grebe. We studied it at close range from 2:43-3:17 p.m. CST. Compared to a Western Grebe, in addition to the size differences mentioned above, this bird was shorter-necked. The mantle was dark gray with some brown flecking. The flanks were grayish. The foreneck was very buffy, almost reddish in color. The bill was large, thick, and straight with a yellowish base and dark tip. The crown was dark and the bird had a distinct white cheek patch. There was a single thin, indistinct dark line above the eye. Initially, we thought this meant the bird was an immature. However, juvenile/first-basic birds should not have a reddish neck, and would probably still have the distinctive multiple stripes across the face. We concluded that the bird was probably an adult in molt. The indistinct eyeline may have been a feature unique to this particular individual.

We observed the bird again on 27 September with Ross Silcock and John Sullivan. Red-necked Grebes are rare migrants in Nebraska. Dinsmore (1996) summarized previous records of this species in Nebraska. This record represents the ninth documented record for Nebraska, and is the earliest fall record.

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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, JUNE-JULY 1997

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INTRODUCTION

A couple of preliminary notes: in the accounts below we have noted for several species "Reports were routine." This means that these species, mostly common in occurrence, were indeed present and reported, but the reports did not include unusual arrival or departure dates or high counts. For this Summer Report, observers are encouraged to report high counts on their BBS routes, as well as nesting data such as egg and fledging dates. Finally, this report includes a few observations from 1996.

In general, this was a rather routine summer period. The only real rarity was, however, a good one, a 1st state record Curlew Sandpiper. Other unusual reports were an easterly Pacific Loon, a flock of 42 Clark's Nutcrackers, a lost Prairie Warbler in the Sandhills, and a reported but undocumented Scott's Oriole. Species at the edges of their ranges were Chuck-will's-widow near Kearney, Purple Martin at Bassett, and Brown Creeper in Cass Co. Significant late dates were recorded for several species: 5 shorebird species, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 warbler species, and Savannah Sparrow (without details). The only significant early fall date was recorded by Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF = Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City; **BBS** = Breeding Bird Survey; **BOL** = Branched Oak L, SRA, Lancaster Co; **BSC** = Boy Scout Camp; **Cem** = Cemetery; **CLNWR** = Crescent L NWR, Garden Co; **Co(s)** = county(ies); **CRP** = Conservation Reserve Program (US Dept. Agriculture); **FF** = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; **FL** = Funk Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; **ICSP** = Indian Cave SP, Richardson-Nemaha Cos; **imm(s)** = immatures; **L** = Lake; **LM** = L McConaughy, Keith Co; **mi** = miles; **NC** = Nature Center; **NE** = Nebraska; **NPNWR** = North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge; **R** = River; **Res** = Reservoir; **RWB** = Rainwater Basin, sc NE; **SHP** = State Historical Park; **SL** = Sewage Lagoons; **SP** = State Park; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area; **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area.

GAZETTEER

Arbor L, WMA, Lancaster Co; Ashford BSC, Thurston Co; Burchard L WMA, Pawnee Co; Calamus Res, SRA, Loup-Garfield Cos; Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co; Clear Creek Marshes, extreme se Garden-Keith Cos; County Line Marsh, WPA, Fillmore-Polk Cos; Crescent L, private, Garden Co; Crystal Cove L, South Sioux City; East Harvard Basin, private, Clay Co; Gifford Farm, adjacent to FF, Sarpy Co; Hansen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Harvard Marsh, WPA, Clay Co; Hultine North Basin (formerly Sandpiper), WPA, Clay Co; Jack Sinn Marsh, WMA, Lancaster-Saunders Cos; Johnson Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; Keystone L, contiguous with L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kilpatrick L, private, Box Butte Co; Kingsley Dam, between LM and L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kiowa Springs, WMA, Scotts Bluff Co; Kissinger Basin, WMA, Clay Co; L Babcock, Platte Co; L Ogallala, Keith Co; Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co; Mormon Island SRA, Hall Co; Neale Woods, Douglas Co; Pawnee L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Pine Ridge, Sioux-Dawes-Sheridan Cos; Pintail Marsh, WMA, Hamilton Co; Platte River SRA, Cass Co; Real Basin, WPA, Fillmore Co; Rock Creek L, SRA, Dundee Co; Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo

Co; Schilling Refuge, Cass Co; Schramm Park, SRA, Sarpy Co; Sinninger Lagoon, WPA, York Co; Smiley Canyon, Fort Robinson SP, Sioux Co; Smith L, WMA, Sheridan Co; Soldier Creek Wilderness, Sioux Co; Stagecoach L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Sutherland Res, SRA, Lincoln Co; Tamora Basin, private, Seward Co; Theesen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Twin Lakes Basin, WMA, Seward Co; Wagontrain L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos; Willet Basin, private, Fillmore Co; Wolf L, private, along Platte R in n Saunders Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon: One at Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, was almost in full alternate plumage 1 and 4 Jul (*BP,LP). This is the 5th summer record for the state, but the 1st from the east.

Common Loon: The 2 immes at L Ogallala in late May (see Spring) were joined by an adult 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). An immature was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

Pied-billed Grebe: Reports were routine.

Rare Grebe: Late in the east was a single at a pond in nw Lancaster Co 4 Jun (LE). A few summer in the RWB, although breeding there is rare, such as 3 at Johnson Basin 6 Jul (LR,RH). All other reports were from the Panhandle, primarily CLNWR, where counts of 597 on 10 Jun (MF) and 932 on 10 Jul (MF) were made.

Western Grebe: A single with a Clark's Grebe at BOL 29 Jul was a significant find (JS). Also unexpected was a lone bird at FL 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ). No individual attempted the daunting task of estimating the numbers at LM during the period, although 45 were found at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Clark's Grebe: A well-described single with a Western at BOL 29 Jul (JS) was even more significant than the preceding species. This species is only accidental in Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore; Birds in Iowa). Another was described from North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

American White Pelican: This species does not breed in NE but summers at favored locales such as CLNWR, where 38 were noted 8 Jul (MF). The 18 at BOL 4 Jun (LE) were late migrants and the single at Schilling Refuge 28 Jun may have been an early migrant, as were 50 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Double-crested Cormorant: A "half dozen" nests were found along BBS route 54027 in Rock Co 10 Jun (NR), and 33 nests were at the recently-established colony near Alma 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

American Bittern: If 19 could be found and counted at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF), who knows how many others were present but well concealed? This species is common at CLNWR.

Least Bittern: Of interest was a report from an unexpectedly westerly location, Island L at CLNWR, where one was heard calling and then flushed 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Two were noted at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH). This species probably occurs wherever suitable cattail habitat exists, although most reports are from e NE.

Great Blue Heron: High count was a modest 36 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF). The newly-established colony at Alma had 9 nests 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Great Egret: Wandering post-breeders were moving into the flooded areas near Nebraska City by 25 Jun, when 2 were found (LF,CF); by 29 Jul about 35 were present (LF,CF). The only other reports were of singles at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP).

Snowy Egret: The only reports were of singles at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF) and at L Babcock 27 Jul (JS).

Little Blue Heron: Only 2 were reported, singles near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH).

Cattle Egret: The few reported were 2 at Willet Basin 1 Jun (GJ,JGJ), 1 at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), 5 near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF), 20 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH), and one at Alma 19 Jul

(JGJ,WRS).

Green Heron: One at North Platte SL 19 Jul was somewhat westerly (WRS,JGJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A pair of adults at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun (BFH) was intriguing and suggests the possibility of breeding somewhat e of trhe usual range. High count was a modest 6 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF).

White-faced Ibis: The only reports were from CLNWR, where 3 were counted 8 Jul (MF) and 18 on 31 Jul (MF), and FL, where 2 were present 1 Jun (LR,RH) and one on 27 Jul (LR,RH). Jul birds are probably postbreeding dispersers.

Turkey Vulture: Reports were routine.

Trumpeter Swan: Few are noted in summer, possibly as many breeding sites are secluded and of poor access. Two were 2 at CLNWR 10 Jun-8 Jul (MF), and a pair with 2 downy cygnets was at Center L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ).

Mute Swan: Although this species is not accepted on the state list as none are established and breeding in the state, observers should report observations so that its presence can be monitored. Three adults were on a lake at the I-80 Odessa exit 5-8 Jun (LR,RH).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A lingering pair, possibly injured, was found at Harvard Marsh 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH). Two were at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH) and another, with an orange neck band, was there 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Snow Goose: In recent summers, a few have been found in the RWB, but 42 at County Line Marsh 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ) is likely a symptom of current high population levels in this species. Also, 9 apparently summered at East Harvard Basin, as they were observed in late May and again 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH).

Canada Goose: Counts of 619 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 210 at BOL 18 Jun (LE) indicate healthy populations at those locations.

Wood Duck: High counts were from the w, where birds tend to be concentrated in limited habitat, and included 90 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 18 at Twentynone L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ). A good count elsewhere was 30 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Mallard: Reports were routine.

Northern Pintail: The few reports included 2 at FL1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), a report from CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH), a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ), and a single at FL 6 and 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Blue-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Cinnamon Teal: Rare in summer, the only reports were of singles at CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH) and at Kiowa Springs 12 and 14 Jun (AK,WRS,JS). The latter place is probably the most reliable in summer in NE for this species.

Northern Shoveler: Last reported at a nonbreeding location s of the Platte R was a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

Gadwall: High count was 42 at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF), and the only report from nonbreeding locations s of the Platte R was of a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

American Wigeon: Uncommon in summer, none were reported other than pairs at Real Basin and Sinninger Lagoon, both on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), 10 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH) and 2 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Canvasback: Although fairly common in the Sandhills in summer, the only Sandhills reports were from CLNWR, 13 on 8 Jun (MF) and 22 on 8 Jul (MF). There were, however, 2 at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH). Summer reports away from the Sandhills are rare.

Redhead: Summering birds are most often reported from the Sandhills and RWB, but best count was only 15 on 8 Jul at CLNWR (MF), disappointing compared to previous summer counts. However, 23 were at Pony L, Valentine NWR, 5 Jul (JGJ), and 11-16 were at FL on 1

Jun (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH).

Lesser Scaup: Single birds were at FL and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at LM on 5 Jun (JH,EH), at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at NPNWR on 10 Jun (LK), and at BOL on 18 Jun (LE). Although breeding is rare, summering individuals are (obviously!) not unusual.

Bufflehead: Rare anywhere during summer, a single was at NPNWR on 25 Jun (LK).

Hooded Merganser: In contrast to last summer when several immature/female-plumaged birds were reported, none were reported this summer.

Common Merganser: An apparent late migrant was a female at BOL 4 Jun (LE). Possible molt migrants were 2 on 25 Jun and 3 on 10 Jul at NPNWR (LK). Up to 11 were at LM 3-5 Jun (JH,EH) and 4 were at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Duck: The 7 at Pawnee L 4 Jun (LE) may have been late migrants, and the 5 at Nebraska City 4 Jul (LF,CF) may have been wanderers, although summering has occurred on occasion at nearby Forney L, Iowa. High count from a breeding locale was 46 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Mississippi Kite: At least 2 were at Ogallala on 1 Jun (JS) and 2 were there 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bald Eagle: Summer reports are now routine as NE now has several active nests. Reports included 4 at NPNWR 10 Jun-24 Jul (LK) and 4 at CLNWR 5 Jun (MF).

Northern Harrier: One was at Hultine North Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ); nesting is possible although rarely reported in the RWB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF) was probably a lingering migrant, as breeding is very rare in NE.

Cooper's Hawk: The only report was of one at Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Swainson's Hawk: Most reports were from the w and n of the Platte R, the exceptions a few reports from the w RWB in Phelps Co (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH) and 1 easterly at Theesen Lagoon 13 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 7 at CLNWR on 8 Jun (MF).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine.

Ferruginous Hawk: Only one was reported, a single 9 mi e of Chadron on 26 Jul (LF,CF).

Rough-legged Hawk: A report, without details, was received of a single at NPNWR 10 Jun-10 Jul. This species is not expected in summer, although such reports are not unprecedented in NE.

Golden Eagle: Reports were routine.

American Kestrel: Reports were routine.

Gray Partridge: A single 6 mi w of Herman, Washington Co, 18-20 Jun (JGJ) was rather far s considering the species' current range retraction.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports were routine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports were routine.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were routine.

Wild Turkey: Reports were routine.

Northern Bobwhite: A single at the Gering Cem 12 Jul (AK) is evidence that the population (we assume there really are more than 1) in the Scottsbluff area remains stable.

Virginia Rail: Observers apparently spent little time railing this summer. Reports were routine.

Sora: One was at Tamora Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), probably a summering bird.

American Coot: Reports were routine.

Sandhill Crane: Recent years have found a few at Harvard Marsh in summer, raising hopes that breeding may occur. This year a "healthy adult," apparently unaccompanied, was there 13 Jul (LR,RH).

American Golden-Plover: Apparently only the 2nd ever record for Jun, one in alternate plumage was at Crescent L 13 Jun (WRS,JS), presumably a late migrant or non-breeder.

Semipalmated Plover: Earliest was a single at FL 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS,LR,RH) and 3 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP).

Piping Plover: Earliest away from breeding areas were 1-2 at FL19-20 Jul (WRS,JGJ,BP,LP).

Killdeer: Flocks form in Jul, as exemplified by 80 in 2 groups in n Clay Co 13 Jul (LR,RH).

Mountain Plover: About 3 mi sw of the Kimball Airport, one was apparently sitting on a nest 12 Jun (*BP,LP). Two were noted 15 Jun just s of the Kimball Airport in stony wheat fallow (WRS,JS).

Black-necked Stilt: At CLWNR, 3 were found on 8 Jul (MF). Unusual was the presence of one at FL 5 and 10 Jun (fide LR,RH).

American Avocet: Pairs at Kissinger Basin and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun may have been late migrants, as they were not found on subsequent visits (JGJ). Breeding occurs on occasion in the RWB, and 2 at FL 8 Jun and also 6 Jul (LR,RH) may have been summering. Reports of migrants include up to 30 at FL 19-20 Jun (BP,LP,WRS,JGJ) and 30 there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and 56 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest southbound migrants and high count were 15 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were both the earliest and the season's high count (JGJ).

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 8 at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LE).

Willet: Most reports were from CLNWR, where it breeds, best count 16 on 18 Jun (MF), but one 2 mi n of Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) was presumably a migrant.

Spotted Sandpiper: As expected, small numbers were found throughout.

Upland Sandpiper: High counts included 35 at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH), 15 at CLNWR 10 Jun (MF), and 9 in se Dixon Co 21 Jul (JJ), the latter a good non-migrant count for ne NE.

Long-billed Curlew: This species arrives and breeds relatively early, so excellent counts of 30 at CLNWR on 10 Jun (MF) and 67 at NPNWR on 24 Jul (LK) were likely post-breeding (pre migratory) flocks.

Marbled Godwit: One was at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ) and 2 were there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and another was near Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rare in fall, a single was at FL19-20 Jul (JGJ, mob).

Sanderling: Late spring migrants were 3 at BOL on 4 Jun (LE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A single at BOL 18 Jun (LE) may have discontinued its migration; the previous latest spring date was 10 Jun. Also rather late were 2 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH). Earliest for fall were 6 at Kissinger Basin 5 Jul (JGJ), followed by 6 at BOL on 8 Jul (LE). High count was 150 at FL 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Western Sandpiper: Adults' stopovers in the state are apparently brief. Earliest were 25 at FL on 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), but, while only 4 were there the following day (LP,BP), an excellent tally of 100 was reported there (without details) 24 Jul (LR,RH). Also, a single was 3 mi s of Geneva 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest were 2 at Sinninger Lagoon and 10 at Pintail Marsh on 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 60 at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Late were 13 at BOL on 18 Jun (LE), 2nd latest ever. As many as 110 were at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Baird's Sandpiper: Earliest were 100 at FL19 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 200 there 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Late was a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF), the 3rd latest on record. Earliest southbound migrant was a single near Nathan's L, Washington Co, 13 Jul (JGJ) and high count 34 at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (LP,BP).

Curlew Sandpiper: Perhaps ending the summer doldrums and no doubt the bird of the season was an alternate-plumaged bird just beginning to molt at FL 19-21 Jul (JGJ*,WRS*, BP*,LP*, LR*,RH*, mob). If accepted by the NOURC, this would be a 1st state record of this species. Records from neighboring states are in early fall also, usually adults, and suggest that juveniles may be overlooked due to their similarity to Stilt Sandpipers, especially in water.

Stilt Sandpiper: Earliest were 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). An excellent high count was 245 at FL 20 Jul (WRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A single bird returned before the end of the period at Jack Sinn Marsh 26 Jul (JGJ), 2nd earliest on record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Earliest and the only report for the period was of 4 at Jack Sinn Marsh 20 Jul (JGJ,WRS). Details were provided.

Long-billed Dowitcher: This year 2 arrived at Willet Basin on 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS) and 4 were at CLNWR on 20 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Identification for both sightings was based on call and, together with the Short-billed sighting above, suggests that either species of dowitcher may be found in Jul. Because many are molting into winter plumage, identification other than by call can be tricky. A dowitcher unidentified to species was at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH), a very early record. There are few Jul records of dowitchers identified to species.

Common Snipe: A single at Kiowa Springs 12 Jun (AK) suggests the possibility of breeding at that locale. Also suggestive of breeding, 2 were found on BBS route 54027, Rock Co, 10 Jun (NR).

American Woodcock: Presumably a bird feigning an injury at BOL on 4 Jun (LE) was the parent of 2 others (newly-fledged birds?) nearby.

Wilson's Phalarope: One in basic plumage was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS), the latest ever spring date away from a breeding location. The 2 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were likely the first fall migrants away from breeding areas. Migration was well underway by the end of the period, however, as evidenced by counts of 1321 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF) and 280 at Gering SL 29 Jul (AK).

Franklin's Gull: Last for spring were 25 at BOL 4 Jun (LE), a report from CLNWR on 8 Jun (JH,EH), and a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF). A single at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP) was probably an early migrant as were 25 at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ring-billed Gull: Best count from the w, where summer concentrations are highest, was 245 on 24 Jul (LK). Best count from the e was only 3, on 29 Jul (LE).

California Gull: The only report was of 2 adults on 19 Jul at Sutherland Res, not LM, where the species is to be expected by the end of the period. Water levels at LM were very high this summer and may account for the lack of birds and/or observations.

Caspian Tern: A rather high count of 16 was recorded at BOL 4 Jun (LE), probably late migrants. Rare in the w, but becoming more regular in recent years, 2 were at Keystone L 20 Jun (JS).

Common Tern: At Crescent L, 6 adults were noted (details provided) 13 Jun (WRS,JS), a rather late date.

Forster's Tern: At BOL, 4 remained until 18 Jun (LE) and 5 showed up on 29 Jul (LE). Only 2 were found at CLNWR on 6 Jun (MF), however 60 were at a nesting site at Goose L, CLNWR, 13 Jun (WRS,JS), and 40 were at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF). Late or lingering were 2 at Wolf L 7 Jun (TH).

Least Tern: At least 2 active nests were observed at the parking

lot/nesting area at the n end of Kingsley Dam 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS). In the east, 2 were along the Papio Trail, Sarpy Co, 8 Jun (BP,LP), 2 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP), and 4 were near Wolf L 26 Jul (TH). One-two were at Rowe Sanctuary 5 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Black Tern: Migrants were 40 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH), and returning were 30 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Breeding is not recorded in the RWB.

Rock Dove: Reports were routine.

Mourning Dove: No young had been produced in the Wolf L area by 26 Jul (TH), rather unusual for this productive species.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only westerly reports were from CLNWR, where first birds were seen 15 Jun (MF). All other reports were from the east, totalling only about a dozen birds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Varying reports were received; "no cuckoos" were found in Lancaster Co during the period (LE); a total of about a dozen birds were reported, including nestlings as far west as s Sioux Co 14 Jun (HKH), and a nest with 4 nestlings at Ashford BSC 11 Jul (BFH).

Barn Owl: None were reported east of the traditional Clear Creek Marshes site 11 Jun (BP,LP).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine.

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine.

Burrowing Owl: Good counts were 8 s of Lyman 14 Jun (AK) and 5 in Dundy Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Furthest e was a lonely bird 1 mi w of Funk Lagoon 19 (WRS,JGJ), 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH); it appears that the prairie dogs at this site are no longer present.

Barred Owl: Westerly was 1 ne of Ames 14 Jul (B); no information on the location was given.

Long-eared Owl: Interesting were reports of likely summering birds: 2 at Smith L 1 Jun (WM) and another heard at ICSP 12 Jul (B); the latter was near site 37 at the campground. Nesting occurs statewide, but summering birds are rarely noted.

Short-eared Owl: None were reported.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: A report from 1996 was of one singing at 4.30 am on 23 Jun at Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co (MB). There are occasional reports statewide away from the Pine Ridge in summer, but nesting at any of these locations has not been confirmed.

Common Nighthawk: Reports were routine.

Common Poorwill: Reports were routine.

Chuck-will's-widow: Apparently establishing itself along the Platte River westward in recent years, westward limits were consolidated by birds heard by Lingle and the Tebbels during the summer between the Minden and Kearney bridges (fide LR,RH). Curiously, there is a report of one on the south bank of the Platte 9 mi se of Kearney 19-29 Jun 1983 (NBR), generally the same area as the above reports, suggesting that Chuck-will's-widows may have been in the area for some time. Other than these reports, furthest w in the Platte Valley is the population near Morse Bluff; one was heard at Wolf L throughout the period (TH). Surprisingly, there are no reports from the se other than near the Missouri R; the only such report this year was of one heard near the main RV campground 22 Jun (JS). In recent years there have been reports in the Missouri Valley as far n as Dakota Co.

Whip-poor-will: Reports were routine.

Chimney Swift: Reports were routine.

White-throated Swift: The 3 reports were from expected locations: s of Gering in the Wildcat Hills 1 Jun (AK), in the Pine Ridge at Fort Robinson SP with Violet-green Swallows 7 Jun (JS), and 6 at Soldier Creek WMA 1 Jun (JS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: None were reported.

Belted Kingfisher: A good count was 8 at Crystal Cove L 30

Jul (BFH).

Lewis' Woodpecker: None were reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two observers (LE,TH) noted numbers fewer than in recent years.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Not a species given to "high" counts, a total of 4 were at ADF 5 Jul (CF,LF); in the absence of details, they may have been a family group.

Northern Flicker: Reports were routine.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last migrants in the e were 2 at FF 1 Jun (B), and rather late in the w was one at Ogallala 12 Jun (LF,CF), 2nd latest ever in spring. Westerly departure dates in Jun are not unexpected.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were routine.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Furthest w was near Gibbon 1 Jun (LR,RH), well within its expected range.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rather rare in Nebraska in summer, 2-3 were reported, most northerly one (possibly 2) at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B), the other at a regular location in recent years, Trail 9 at ICSP, 7 Jun (JS). There are only about 5 reports in recent years n of ICSP.

Alder Flycatcher: Last was one reported without details but at an expected time and location at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B).

Willow Flycatcher: Small numbers, about 10 birds, were reported statewide, as expected. It would be of interest for observers to note the characteristics of eyerings in summering Nebraska Willow Flycatchers; in general, this empid has the weakest eyering in the group. Is there variation across the state?

Least Flycatcher: Last were singles in sw Dixon Co (JJ) and at Bellevue (BP,LP) the same day.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: At an unexpected location was one in Smiley Canyon 1 Jun (JS); it may have been a migrant. It is being found with some regularity in Monroe Canyon these days; 2 were there 14 Jun (JS,WRS).

Eastern Phoebe: A nest with 3 chicks was found at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH); this is towards the end of the breeding period for this species. Uncommon westerly was 1 at Ogallala 3 Jun (LF,CF).

Say's Phoebe: Probably the easternmost regular summer location is in Dixon Co, where 3 were present 5 Jun (JJ). Birds were noted there 2-11 Jun, one found dead on the latter date (JJ).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Reports were routine, as can be said in recent years of the westernmost summering population for the species, persisting in the Pine Ridge, where 2 were noted in Monroe Canyon 14 Jun (WRS).

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Eastern Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Horned Lark: Trying not to be routine, a count of 33 in sw Dixon Co 30 Jul (JJ) was noteworthy.

Purple Martin: Of interest were 10 in Bassett 27 Jun (LR,RH), not far east of Ainsworth, beyond which there are few if any summer reports. Observations from northcentral Nebraska in summer are of definite interest.

Tree Swallow: A few scattered nesting locations have been reported in northcentral Nebraska in recent years, but densities are low. Nesting was noted at Smith L 1 Jun (WM), and a first county nesting was in Boone Co the same day (WM). It was noted also at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH). More expected was a count of 26 at Wagontrain L 18 Jul (LE), indicative of the start post-breeding flocking.

Violet-green Swallow: The usual few birds were reported from the northwest, including "some" at Fort Robinson SP 7 Jun (JH) and 2 at

Soldier Creek campground 1 Jun (JS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Reports were routine.

Bank Swallow: A good count was 50 at BOL 8 Jul (LE) and an excellent count 800 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH), obviously migrants, although somewhat earlier than previous high counts, which have been in early Aug.

Cliff Swallow: A good count was 1000 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH). Peak movement is in early Aug.

Barn Swallow: Reports were routine.

Blue Jay: Reports were routine.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported, not really surprisingly, as these birds can be tough to find during the nesting season. Perhaps this is not the correct assumption to make; are they numerous in summer on the Pine Ridge?

Clark's Nutcracker: Continuing the invasion of last winter, an amazing 42 were at the lower end of Monroe Canyon 1 Jun (JS). The breeding adults at Morrill had departed before 1 Jun, but their single offspring remained until 4 Jun (ECT,AK).

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly was 1 at Pintail Basin in Hamilton Co 9 Jun (NR).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were from expected summer locations, including 2-3 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Keya Paha Co 28-29 Jun (LR,RH).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were routine.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The summer population at Wildcat Hills continues, although only a single was reported, on 5 Jun (JH).

Brown Creeper: Single birds were reported from the traditional and only known breeding site in FF 27 Jun and 5 Jul (BP,LP), but a report from Cass Co 6 Jun, location not stated (GW), may indicate a previously unknown summer population.

Rock Wren: Easternmost was one s of Kingsley Dam 5 Jun (JH).

Carolina Wren: Reports were from the se, n to Neale Woods, where one (2?) were present 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B). Others were in Cass (GW) and Otoe (LF,CF) Cos.

House Wren: Reports were routine.

Sedge Wren: More than usual were reported in Jun, most singing birds; generally only a few are found then, but an influx occurs in Jul-Aug, when almost all reported nestings have occurred. At Arbor L 4 were seen 4 Jun (LE), but none were reported from there until a singing bird was noted 29 Jul (LE). Two or 3 were at each of Fricke and Schneekloth Prairies in Sarpy Co and Nine-Mile Prairie in Lancaster Co 10-20 Jun (JH), but a fall influx was indicated by the presence of 10 at Nine-Mile Prairie 25 Jul (JH). Other Jun reports were of one along Papio Trail in Sarpy Co 7-8 Jun (BP,LP) and 2 at Jack Sinn Marsh 17 Jun (JS). About as far w as it is regular, 1-2 were near Gibbon 12 and 21 Jun (LR,RH). More expected were 2 which appeared at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), a single at Twin Lakes Basin 30 Jul (JH) and 2 at Stolley Prairie, Omaha, 31 Jul (JH).

Marsh Wren: Two singing birds at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun were, as expected, of the eastern song type (BFH). An outlying population at Funk Lagoon continued (LR,RH). Abundant at CLNWR, 75 were counted (!) 13 Jun (WRS) and 44 were there 18 Jun (MF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) was near the n edge of the regular summer range, which is in central Washington Co.

Eastern Bluebird: Westerly, and uncommon there, were one near the Wildcat Hills NC 5 Jun (JH) and 2 nearby on Stage Hill RD, just n

of the NC, 27 Jul (AK).

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were routine.

Swainson's Thrush: The only ones making it into this period were 5 at CLNWR 2 Jun (MF).

Wood Thrush: Furthest w reported were at least 3 birds at different locations in the Wolf L area during the period (TH) and a single ne of Ames 9 Jun (B).

American Robin: Reports were routine.

Gray Catbird: Reports were routine.

Northern Mockingbird: Reports were routine, a total of 4 birds noted statewide (JS,GW).

Brown Thrasher: Reports were routine.

Cedar Waxwing: Somewhat like Northern Mockingbird, this species pops up in summer virtually anywhere (although in different habitats), and although seemingly noteworthy, the reports are really routine. A count of 25 in sw Dixon Co 6 Jun (JJ), however, was probably a group of late migrants. Of interest also, was the absence of waxwings from BOL between 5 Jun and 28 Jul (LE); there were, however, birds at Wolf L 22 and 26 Jun (TH).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reports were routine.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: This species is numerous at Rock Creek SRA, where 10 were noted 13 Jun (WRS) and in sc NE, where 12 were counted on the Furnas-Gosper Co BBS (LR,RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Northernmost, but expected that far n, was 1 at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH). This species occurs in summer throughout the Missouri Valley.

Warbling Vireo: Reports were routine.

Red-eyed Vireo: A good tally was 20 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Brown Co 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Tennessee Warbler: Last for the spring was 1 at FF 3 Jun (BP,LP), about a week earlier than the latest dates for the species.

Northern Parula: Presumably summering were birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP), Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), and at ICSP 12 Jul (B), all within the expected range.

Yellow Warbler: Reports were routine.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Rather late was 1 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B); last dates are 3-4 Jun, which were exceeded significantly by one in the observers' yard near Gibbon 16 Jun (*LR,RH). There are no similar Nebraska reports, although it has bred near Boulder, Colorado, and has occurred in summer in the Black Hills.

Magnolia Warbler: Another very late bird, but not a record setter, was one in the observers' yard in Bellevue 10 Jun (BP,LP). There are 3 other reports, including a specimen 16 Jun, in the period 12-16 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A rather late migrant, subspecies unspecified, was at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF). The only later report of a "Myrtle" Warbler is 15 Jun 1992 in Lincoln Co. Although there are about 10 reports away from the breeding range of "Audubon's" Warbler in the period 30 Jun-11 Aug, subspecies are unspecified.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The only reports were from the usual location, FF, although no more than single birds were reported, through 5 Jul, when one was singing near the Gifford Farm parking lot (BP,LP).

Prairie Warbler: Quite a surprise was a singing bird at Nebraska National Forest, Halsey, 5 Jul (JGJ), the only summer record for the state. In the interest of propriety, we will not mention the reason the observer was in this particular rather secluded spot.

Blackpoll Warbler: Rather late was one in the observers' yard 1 Jun (BP,LP). Latest dates are 4-7 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Singles were reported at FF, an expected

location, 1 and 28 Jun (BP,LP), and another was at Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), where it is not regularly noted.

Black-and-white Warbler: There are few summer reports in recent years from the lower Missouri Valley, where 1 was at ICSP 6 Jun 1996 (MB). Breeding does occur regularly at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, where one was noted 29 Jul in Keya Paha Co (LR,RH).

American Redstart: The few reports were from the Missouri Valley, including 4 singing birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP) and 3 singing at Ashford BSC (BFH), both locations where breeding is apparently regular, but few birds seem to be present.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported during the period; the population along North Stream Trail in FF may no longer be present.

Ovenbird: A count of 40 in the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, on 28 Jun (LR,RH) shows how numerous this species can be in n Nebraska in summer. More usual were 3 at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP). Numbers of Ovenbirds present may be a good indicator of a woodland with a complete succession of vegetation; it is rare or absent in the Platte Valley west of Schramm SP.

Northern Waterthrush: Another record-late warbler was one of this species at the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery, Dundey Co, 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The few Jun reports include a specimen collected in Adams Co 8 Jun 1953, and the purported presence of birds at FF 18 Jun and in Jul 1982, and a female with a brood patch banded there 18 Jun 1983, although no details have been published on the FF reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: None were reported for the period, despite a flurry of rather widespread spring reports.

Kentucky Warbler: Reports were from se NE locations: singles were at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 5 Jul (B), at ADF 17 Jul (LF,CF), and at Platte River SP 1 Jun (B). No evidence of breeding was noted.

Connecticut Warbler: Only the 3rd spring report, and possibly the same bird reported at FF 31 May (Spring Report), was one singing at FF 1 Jun (B). No details were provided for what would be the 2nd latest ever.

Mourning Warbler: Expected in early Jun, last were 2 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B). Latest dates for this species are 11-15 Jun.

Common Yellowthroat: Reports were routine.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were as expected from c NE westward; it is common at Rock Creek SRA, Dundey Co, where 12 were noted 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Unexpected, however, was a report from Platte River SP 14 Jun, where another, likely the same, was noted in the Spring Report (GW). This species is now only casual in e NE.

Summer Tanager: The only report was from the usual location, Schramm SP, on 1 Jun (B). Of interest is a belated report of one at ICSP 5 Jun 1996 (MB); this species is rarely reported away from Schramm SP.

Scarlet Tanager: There were reports away from the Missouri Valley, where it is regular in summer, as far n and w as Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 2 pairs 28 Jun (B), and the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH). The latter location is about the westward extent of regular breeding in the Niobrara Valley, although nesting is reported w to the Valentine area.

Western Tanager: Reports were routine.

Northern Cardinal: Reports were received from westerly outposts of the range, most interestingly from 12 mi e of Chadron, where 1 was noted 26 Jul (LF,CF); there are few Pine Ridge reports. It occurs throughout the Republican Valley, where 2 were noted at Rock Creek SRA 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The small group survives in Scotts Bluff Co, where 3 were the most seen at one time, 2 males and a female (AK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Near the w edge of the range of "pure" birds of this species, up to 4 (3 females, 1 male) were in the

observers' yard near Gibbon throughout the summer (LR,RH).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Lazuli Bunting: Reports included a good count of 6 s of Gering 1 Jun (AK), and a hybrid in the Sue Amiotte yard s of Chadron 3 Jul (fide AK).

Indigo Bunting: Rather rare, although now regular, in the w Republican Valley, 1 was noted on the Benkelman BBS 13 Jun (JS,WRS).

Dickcissel: Rather sporadic westerly, especially in Jun, 3 were at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF), and 1 was noted on the Agate BBS, Sioux Co, 14 Jun (WRS,JS). Richard Rosche has suggested that there is a regular, low-density breeding population in the west, and a later-arriving (Jul) population consisting of single males generally associated with alfalfa fields.

Eastern Towhee: At the w edge of the range were 3 singing "drink your teedle tee" (!!) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH), and another heard at Wolf L 6 Jun (TH), possibly a late migrant, as most summer birds there are Spotted (see below).

Spotted Towhee: A phenotypic Spotted sang the Eastern song (see above for an accurate rendition) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul; most birds in that woodland near the w edge of the range of Eastern Towhee appear to be hybrids. At Wolf L, Spotted is a summer resident; 2-3 pairs were there (TH) at the e edge of the range. Also at the e edge of the range was one which summered near Gibbon (LR,RH).

Cassin's Sparrow: Despite an extensive search of known and other locations in Dundey Co, none were found (JS,WRS). A significant part of the best habitat along the ridges on the n side of the Republican R was burned in grass fires in 1996. A location where birds were found 23 Jun 1996 (MB) was also searched without success; this was on the s side of Highway 34 just w of its junction with Highway 161.

Chipping Sparrow: Least common in sw NE, the furthest sw report was of 5 on the campus of University of Nebraska-Kearney 26 Jun (LR,RH). Reports s of the Platte R and w of Grand Island are of interest.

Brewer's Sparrow: Reports were received from traditional locations, 7 birds s of Kilpatrick L 14 Jun (WRS,JS), and along the Wyoming border in Sioux Co (B), but of interest were 2 singing birds acting territorially in atypical habitat in Kimball Co 15 Jun (JS,WRS). One was in a planted shelterbelt of shrubs about 8 ft tall, and the other was singing from a dense clump of brome grass on CRP pasture. At least 8 others were found in Kimball and Banner Cos the same day, all in typical sage grassland habitat (WRS,JS).

Field Sparrow: Westerly was 1 on the Furnas-Gosper Cos BBS 22 Jun (LR,RH). Numbers decline markedly to the w.

Vesper Sparrow: This species is probably most numerous in the Sandhills, as reflected by a good count of 26 at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Lark Sparrow: Rather common statewide, but especially in the Sandhills, best counts were 25 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH), and 20 s of Gering 27 Jul (AK).

Lark Bunting: Although none were reported e of the Panhandle, numbers there were good, with totals of over 400 in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and over 350 in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Savannah Sparrow: The few nesting records are from the northwest, and so 2 birds, reported without details, 3 mi s of Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF) were probably late migrants; the previous late dates were 24-25 May, although there are undocumented reports 29 May 1992 from Lancaster Co an 31 May 1975 from Douglas-Sarpy Cos.

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species is doing very well in w NE. Over 100 were noted both 13 Jun in Dundey Co and 15 Jun in Kimball Co

(WRS,JS) and 118 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF). These counts are in line with others in these areas in recent years.

Henslow's Sparrow: One was singing at the traditional location just s of the prairie-chicken blinds at Burchard L SRA 22 Jun (JS), but of interest were reports from additional locations: 3 were at Meadowlark L SRA in Seward Co 14 Jul (B), and one was at Nine-Mile prairie in Lancaster Co 12 Jun (B). Recent years have seen increasing reports of this species, especially in prairies which are regenerating or managed by burning.

Song Sparrow: Traditionally, this species bred only along the e and n edges of the state, but since the 1960s it has been noted in other areas, generally in the Loup drainage and along the Platte Valley w to about Buffalo Co, and including at least Funk Lagoon in Phelps Co. Reports this summer suggest that it is consolidating its range in the Rainwater Basin, with reports from Pintail WMA 12 Jun (LF,CF), Hansen Lagoon 5 Jul (JGJ), Southeast Marsh at Hastings 13 Jul (LR,RH), and at Harvard and Harvard Northeast Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Thus Song Sparrow probably now occupies wetland areas of most of e and c NE, as well as an isolated, small population at Oliver Res in Kimball Co. Possibly a new habitat was the Earl May Garden Center in Bellevue, where one was carrying food 8 Jun after having been noted singing there earlier in the spring (BP,LP).

Swamp Sparrow: The small Funk Lagoon population continues, with reports 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: None were reported.

McCown's Longspur: Reports were from traditional locations along the Wyoming border road in Sioux Co (B) and in sw Kimball Co, where 11 were noted at "Stop 52" of the Kimball BBS route (WRS,JS).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were received from several locations in the Panhandle, best count 13 along the Agate BBS route w in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bobolink: Generally a bird of wet meadows, it has also adapted to alfalfa fields, and occurs throughout most of the state, although still most common in Sandhills meadows. It is least numerous in s NE, where this summer there were more reports than usual from the se: 2-4 were at Gifford Farm in Sarpy Co through 8 Jul (BP,LP), 1 was in Otoe Co 1 Jun (LF,CF), and it was reported from Cass Co (no location) 12 Jun (GW). It is numerous in certain Platte Valley locations, as indicated by 45 at Rowe Sanctuary 5 Jul (LR,RH). It also is utilizing managed prairies in se NE such as Madigan Prairie in Lancaster Co, where at least 10 were present 1 Jul (JH).

Red-winged Blackbird: Large flocks of "several thousand" were in evidence in Buffalo Co as early as 19 Jul (LR,RH). The breeding population, about 35 birds, at Arbor L had departed by 29 Jul (LE), which agrees with the timing of the flocks noted above.

Eastern Meadowlark: Continuing the excellent counts of recent years at CLNWR was the report of 26 there 18 Jun (MF).

Western Meadowlark: Numerous in the w, at least 300 were noted in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 207 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Great-tailed Grackle: The first confirmed breeding record for Boone Co was of 3 recently-fledged young seen 1 Jun (WM). At least 6 were found in Lancaster Co 4 Jun and 1 was at Arbor L 8 Jul (LE); summer reports are few away from the Rainwater Basin. Northerly, albeit belated, reports of note were from Antelope and Rock Cos 2 Jun 1996 (MB).

Common Grackle: Flocks of juveniles were noted in c NE by 19 Jul (WRS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Reports were routine.

Orchard Oriole: Common in sw NE, at least 30 were found in Dundey Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Baltimore Oriole: Reports were routine.

Bullock's Oriole: Reports were routine.

Scott's Oriole: One was reported at Mormon Island SP "across from the campground and creek" 2 Jul (B), but no details have been provided. There are 4 other reports of this species in NE, none well-documented.

House Finch: Reports were routine.

Red Crossbill: All reports were from the Wildcat Hills, where there are several summer reports but no evidence of breeding. Best count this summer was 25 at the feeders of Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). At least 2 remained through the period at a feeder s of Gering (AK).

Pine Siskin: There were several reports, most of birds at feeders, through mid-Jun in the Panhandle, best count about 50 at Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). The last seen at the James Ranch feeders were on 16 Jun (SL). A late bird was at Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF). Belated was a report of nesting at Wayne State College 18 Jun 1996 (MB).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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1996 (Eighth) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson) 508 Seeley, Creighton, NE 68729

The functions and methods of the NOU Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been appended six times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c). An update of THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was last published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997) and includes the additions and changes in status of the 1996 NOURC records.

This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 1996, covering 153 records with accession numbers 451-479, 491-614. All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the

University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of The Nebraska Bird Review.

State List

With this report, the following change is made to "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA" (NBR 65: 3-16. 1997):

Addition

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): Accidental, I-P.

This species was inadvertently left off the 1997 version of "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA".

Accepted Records

In order that a record be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Records in the following classes are listed as accepted:

- I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P - a diagnostic, labeled photograph or slide exists
- I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
- III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.
2. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) was received of this species observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 30 October, 1996. An individual (assumed same bird) was observed (Class III; WRS) at the same location, 3 November, 1996.
3. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Stagecoach Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Bluestem Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 19 November, 1995.
2. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two photographs (Class I-P; JS, JJ) of presumed same late juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 15-22 June, 1996.
3. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas Co., 17 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JS) at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*).

1. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two sets of

photographs (Class I-P; JJ, JS) of presumed same juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17-23 November, 1996. These reports represent the first documented occurrence of Yellow-billed Loon in Nebraska.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) on Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox County, 24 November, 1995.
2. A single basic-plumaged bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 21 December, 1995 (NBR 64: 131).
3. A description and photograph (Class I-P; SD) and a written report (Class III; WRS) were received of a molting adult at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26-27 September, 1996.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).

1. Two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, LB) and one written report (Class III; BP, LP) of a single bird observed at a small marsh east of Chambers, Holt Co. from 20-30 May, 1996.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Cuming County, 29 May, 1996.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).

1. A specimen of an adult bird salvaged (Class I-S; WV of NGP) in Brown Co., 14 April, 1992 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17043 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*).

1. An adult was observed (Class III; TH) at Wolf Lake, Saunders Co. several times during the dates of 23 December, 1995 through 6 January, 1996.
2. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) during the fall, 1991 at Clear Creek WMA, Garden Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17009 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
3. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; LWB of NGP) 24 November, 1995, Boyd Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17292 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
4. A group of four birds were photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Chain Lake, Holt Co., 13 November, 1994.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*).

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Harvard Marsh, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 10 March, 1993.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*).

1. A female observed (Class III; WRS) at the North Platte Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996 was well described.
2. A female (presumed above bird) and a first-winter Black Scoter were observed (Class III; BL) at the North Platte

Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 1 November, 1996.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*).

1. A specimen of an immature male found dead along I-80 and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) in Lincoln Co., 9 September, 1991 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17034 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*).

1. A brown-phase female captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 17 February, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16380 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A gray-phase male captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 25 December, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16381 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

1. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 4 June, 1996. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) of the bird taken at the same location on 4 June, 1996 was also received.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 7 June, 1996.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*).

1. Two separate written reports by the initial observers (Class III; RJ, JW) and two sets of photographs (Class I-P; GL, MB) were received of an adult bird in Hall Co., 30-31 March, 1996. These sightings represent the fourth record for Common Crane in Nebraska (NBR 64: 80-82).

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*).

1. A group of five adults were photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 11 April, 1993. This represents one of the eastern-most records for Whooping Crane in Nebraska in the last 100 years.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Mallard Haven WPA, Fillmore Co., 27 April, 1996.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

1. A pair of adult birds were observed (Class III; WRS) in Kimball Co., 15 June, 1996.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 30 April, 1996. This represents one of NE eastern-most records for this species.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

1. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single juvenile observed at Schilling

Refuge, Cass Co., 23 September, 1996.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).

1. Two juveniles were photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cut-off Rainwater Basin, Platte Co., 24 August, 1996.

Dowitcher sp. (*Limnodromus* sp.).

1. Two dowitchers (Long-billed?) were observed (Class III; SS) in Merrick Co., 8 November, 1996 (notable late date).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; MS) at Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox Co., 30 June, 1990.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

1. A single second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996; WRS.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

1. Two reports were received of a single juvenile bird observed (Class III; JJ, JG) at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 October, 1996. This represents the second documented occurrence of Little Gull in Nebraska.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*).

1. A second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 17 February, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence of Mew Gull in Nebraska.
2. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 11 May, 1996.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*).

1. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 27 March, 1996; JJ. This represents one of the eastern-most records for this species in Nebraska.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 23 November, 1995.
2. Of two adults observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
3. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
4. A single first-winter bird was described (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.
5. A first-year bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 15 April, 1996.
6. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.
7. Two first-winter birds were observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996.
2. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., March, 1996.
2. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single adult (presumed same bird) observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 17-19 February, 1996.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 24 March, 1996.
4. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*).

1. One second-winter bird was observed (Class III; RH) at Harlan Co. Reservoir, Harlan Co., 27 December, 1995.
- The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).

The following documentations presumably may be all of the same bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith County.

1. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; JJ); 20 January, 1996.
2. First-winter bird observed (Class III; BP, LP); 5 February, 1996.
3. First-winter bird observed (Class III; WRS); 17-18 February, 1996.
4. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; KN, LN); 18 March, 1996.
5. First-summer bird photographed (Class I-P; SD); 4 August, 1996.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*).

1. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 21 November, 1995.
2. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Summit Lake, Burt Co., 27 November, 1995.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 December, 1995.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).

1. One written report (Class III; BP, LP) and a photograph (Class I-P; JJ) of the presumed same juvenile bird observed at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 22-26 October, 1995.
2. Two written reports (Class III; LR, RH, WRS) and two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, SD) of at least two juveniles observed at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26-29 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
3. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
4. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

5. Two written reports (Class III; JJ, WRS) and a photograph (Class I-P; SD) of a juvenile observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 28 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

1. A juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 1 September, 1996.
 2. A juvenile was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 6 September, 1996.
- The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).

1. A basic-plumaged adult was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on the very late date of 28 October, 1996.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; ET) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 October, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence for Band-tailed Pigeon in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; BM, KM) in Malcolm, Lancaster County, 13 May, 1994. This represents the third documented occurrence for White-winged Dove in Nebraska.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*).

1. A female/immature was observed (Class III; SD) coming to a feeder in Harrison, Sioux Co., 4 August, 1995.
2. A female/immature was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3 August, 1996.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*).

1. A probable female belonging to this complex was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3-4 August, 1996.
2. A female/immature belonging to this complex was photographed (Class I-P; SD) at a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 10 August, 1996.

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*).

1. Two sets of photographs submitted (Class I-P; LB, MB) taken 19 May, 1996 of a single adult bird coming to a feeder stocked with oranges near Chambers, Holt County. This bird was seen daily from 18-21 May, 1996 and constitutes the first documented record for Acorn Woodpecker in Nebraska.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; BL) at a feeding station at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 November, 1996.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

1. One bird from a group of approximately 40 was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., 29 December, 1986.

Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*).

1. An initial report was received of seven birds observed and documented (Class III; LM) at Stateline Island Unit of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, Scotts Bluff Co., 5 October, 1996. A second documentation (Class III; AK) of three birds at the same location on 12 October, 1996 was also received.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Riverside Park, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 October, 1996.
3. A single bird photographed (Class I-P; DC, JC), actually feeding out of the hand, in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 12 November, 1996.
4. A specimen of a female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; RSm) in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 23 November, 1996 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17444 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).

1. One of the few records away from the Platte or Missouri River systems; a single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) near Wisner, Cuming Co., 29 October, 1994.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*).

1. A single (out of normal range) bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) near Malcolm, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*).

1. One photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Hormel Park, Dodge Co., on the very late date of 31 December, 1995.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*).

1. Of a group of four birds observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; BP, LP) south of I-80 Exit 1, Kimball Co., 18 July, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; LM) at the base of Chimney Rock, Morrill Co., 2 September, 1996.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; LK) south of Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 July, 1996. This represents the first documented record for Curve-billed Thrasher in Nebraska since the 1960's.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

1. An unusual mid-winter record of a single bird observed (Class III; RH, LR) near Hazard, Sherman Co., 1 January, 1996 was received.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).

1. A single first-fall bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 15 September, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 10 October, 1996.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).

1. A specimen of an adult female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 18 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16966 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; AG) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16910 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 13 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16911 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*).

1. A specimen of an immature female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 11 October, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17097 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*).

1. An adult female was observed (Class III; SG, SK) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 11 May, 1996 (NBR 64: 83).

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 18 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was observed (Class III; DS) at Wilderness Park, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1996.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; WRS) at N.P. Dodge Park, Douglas Co., 27 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 30 May, 1996.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 10 May, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17033 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*).

1. A report of one adult male and two females (accompanied by a photograph of the adult male; Class I-P; MBH) coming to a feeding station near the Belmont Dam, Morrill Co., 12 May, 1996 was received.
2. Two sets of photographs were submitted (Class I-P; EV, MB); taken 30 May, 1996 of a single female-plumaged bird coming to a feeder at Crane Meadows Nature Center, Hall County.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Courthouse Rock, Morrill Co., 11 May, 1996.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*).

1. A single singing bird was observed (Class III; JJ) along Long Canyon Road, Banner Co., 11 May, 1996.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; SZ) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 6 May, 1985 (NBR 53: 82).
2. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 1 June, 1996.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster County, 15 September, 1996.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*).

1. A single adult male was observed (Class III; LM) at a bird feeder in Crawford, Dawes Co., 28 January, 1996.
2. A group of three males and two females were observed (Class III; WRS) at a feeding station at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 26-27 October, 1996.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

Out-of-normal range records received included:

1. Photographs of several individuals (Class I-P; GF) of a group of 15 birds at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 20 July, 1996.
2. Two heavily streaked birds were observed (Class III; RH, LR) south of Gibbon, Buffalo Co., 3 August, 1996.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

1. A photograph of several individuals (Class I-P; JJ) of a group of seven birds at Oakland Cemetery, Burt Co., 17 March, 1996.

Unaccepted Records

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Records Committee 1986):

- IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt
- V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed
- VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's failure to accept the record.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Class V.

1. A written report was received of a bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). Class V.

1. A written report was received, describing a bird flying up the Platte River, Sarpy Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Class IV.

1. A scoter was photographed at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996; however, the photograph did not show enough details to identify to species.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). Class IV.

1. A written report of a single bird briefly observed in flight after being flushed from a wet meadow at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co. during the spring of 1995. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient

details to eliminate other species.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
2. An adult gull was observed and photographed at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 5 December, 1996. The photographs in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
3. A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities. (Class IV).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class V.

1. A first-winter gull was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Class IV.

1. A first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class VI.

1. A first-winter bird was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*). Class VI.

1. A very interesting report received of a single bird at Offut AFB, Sarpy Co., 19 September, 1993. While there are fall records for inland states such as Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Illinois, making this record a possibility, several reviewers noted that there was no description of the bird's primary wing pattern, which is a key differentiating characteristic to separate this species. One reviewer also noted, "This bird was described as having 'the classic black cap,' a feature which almost certainly rules out Royal Tern, as the latter species possesses a black cap only for a very short time in March-May, while Caspian retains the black cap March-September."

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Class IV.

1. A single bird was observed at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 September, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Acknowledgments

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(LWB), Loren Blake (LB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Dan Clark (DC), Jamalee Clark (JC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Glen Falk (GF), Sue Gentes (SG), Amy Goedert (AG), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Robin Harding (RH), Thomas A. Hoffman (TH), Mary B. Hunt (MH), Robert Jassen (RJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Sandy Kovanda (SK), Alice Kenitz (AK), Lee Kenitz (LK), Ray Korpi (RK), Tom Labedz (TL), Gary Lingle (GL), Bob Livermore (BL), Larry Malone (LM), Bonnie Meltvedt (BM), Klare Meltvedt (KM), Jim Mountjoy (JM), Nebraska Game & Parks personnel (NGP), Kenny Nichols (KN), LaDonna Nichols (LN), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Lanny Randolph (LR), Roger Schmidt (RS), Rod Smith (RSm), Mark Schubert (MS), Glenna Schwalbe (GS), Paul Schwalbe (PS), Don Shower (DS), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Steven Stoppkotte (SS), John Sullivan (JS), Edna Claire Thomas (ET), W.L. Vodehual (WV), Eric Volden (EV), Jim Williams (JW), Soheil Zendeh (SZ).

Current Records Committee members are Mark A. Brogie (Chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labedz, Loren Padelford, and Ross Silcock.

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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

1997 Report for Wauneta area, Chase County. I have seen 49 species, including 20 Turkey Vultures, many Wild Turkeys, a covey of Northern Bobwhite near my house, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in my garden flowers such as *Gilia*, and a Black-headed Grosbeak - a first for my acreage. On 6 September, a male Northern Cardinal brought two young to one of the seven water pans I keep for birds and animals. Other species listed in the area: Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk,

Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, House Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark sp., Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

-----L. Iola Pennington, R R 2, Box 119, Wauneta, NE 69045.

INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEY REPORT FOR SOUTHEASTERN NEBRASKA -
SPRING 1997

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INTRODUCTION

In 1974, Manomet Observatory in Massachusetts organized the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) to collect information on shorebirds during migration. The project is intended to monitor shorebird population trends and to identify major migration routes, timing, and locations of staging areas. More than 600 contributors from 38 states of the United States, and countries, territories, and commonwealths throughout the hemisphere have contributed data since the program's inception. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission collected data for the ISS in the eastern Rainwater Basin area (Clay, Fillmore, York, and Seward counties) from 1993-1996.

Nebraska's eastern saline wetlands, located in or near the city of Lincoln, are considered critically imperiled and the most limited and endangered vegetation community in the state (LaGrange 1997). The shallow waters and exposed mudflats are especially attractive to waterfowl and shorebirds, who feed on the abundant invertebrate life forms. More than 230 species of birds have been identified in the salt basins of Lancaster County alone, more than half the total number of species reported for Nebraska (Farrar and Gersib 1991). In 1997, we began surveying eastern saline wetlands to document the numbers and species of shorebirds using these unique natural habitats.

METHODS

ISS guidelines state that for the spring migration period, one survey should be conducted every ten days in April and May, and one during the first ten days of June. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologists conducted seven surveys from April 3 through June 2, 1997, at five saline wetland locations in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties in southeastern Nebraska: Arbor Lake Wildlife Management Area ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of 27th Street and Arbor Road, Lincoln, NE), Jack Sinn WMA (the main water area east of Highway 77 and Ashland Road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Ceresco, NE), the Department of Road's Davey Road wetland mitigation site (2 miles south of Ceresco), Otto Conservation Easement (4 miles east of Ceresco), and the Nature Conservancy's Little Salt Fork Preserve (3 miles east of Raymond, NE). All available shorebird habitat at each site was explored. Counts took place on clear to partly cloudy days with winds less than 20

mph. Surveys began and ended on the same day, with as much time taken as was needed to complete a site. (During the initial ten-day sampling period, surveys were conducted on April 3 at four sites, and on April 9 at Little Salt Fork Preserve.) The order of the sites visited each day remained constant.

Two observers recorded numbers and species of shorebirds at or flying over each site, and all other bird species encountered. Abundances were qualified as either exact or extrapolated counts. No attempts were made to distinguish between Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers. Unidentified shorebirds were listed as "shorebird spp.," or "peeps" if they were known to belong to the genus *Calidris* (Western, Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, and Baird's Sandpiper).

RESULTS

Observers recorded 22 shorebird species using the eastern saline wetlands during spring migration (Table 1). Excluding peeps, yellowlegs spp. were recorded most often, followed by White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Killdeer, and Dunlin. Ten species (Killdeer, all peeps except Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Dowitcher spp., Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope) were found at all five sites, whereas birds seen at only one location were Solitary and Upland Sandpipers (Little Salt Fork), Willet (Jack Sinn), and Red-necked Phalarope (Davey Road).

Table 1. Species and abundance of shorebirds, and dates observed, at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

Species	Arbor Lake	Davey Road	Jack Sinn	Otto Easement	Little Salt Fork	Total	Date(s) ¹
American Golden-Plover	0	0	0	1	2	3	M 21
Semipalmated Plover	0	5	3	2	0	10	M 1, 15
Killdeer	22	14	17	18	31	102	A 3-J 2
Greater Yellowlegs	8	0	5	1	9	23	A 9-M 15
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	2	0	10	21	33	A 9-M 21
Yellowlegs, spp.	86	0	0	12	193	291	A 9-M 15
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	1	M 15
Willet	0	0	1	0	0	1	A 3
Spotted Sandpiper	2	7	1	0	0	10	A 23-J 2
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	2	M 1
Hudsonian Godwit	0	7	0	42	0	49	A15-M21
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	54	13	31	2	104	M 1-J 2
Western Sandpiper	3	2	2	2	5	14	M1-M 21
Least Sandpiper	14	11	0	15	15	55	M 1-J 2
White-rumped Sandpiper	8	52	23	53	40	176	M 15-J 2
Baird's Sandpiper	10	14	25	10	3	62	A23-M21
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	10	1	1	4	28	A 15-J 2
Dunlin	5	13	8	40	18	84	M 15
Stilt Sandpiper	8	0	0	0	1	9	M 15
Dowitcher spp.	6	10	5	22	1	44	M 1, M15
Common Snipe	29	1	3	2	23	58	A 3-M 1
Wilson's Phalarope	20	5	1	10	31	67	A23-M21
Red-necked Phalarope	0	3	0	0	0	3	M 15
Shorebird spp.	0	1	0	20	0	21	
Peeps	84	76	112	151	162	585	
Total abundance	321	287	220	443	564	1835	
Number of species	14	16	14	16	17	22	

¹ A=April; M=May; J=June. Dates surveyed: April 3 & 9, 15, 23; May 1, 15, 21; June 2.

More species and numbers of shorebirds were observed at Little Salt Fork than at any other site. This was the largest area covered and it contained exposed shoreline and several flooded fields. The low totals for Jack Sinn were due in part to high water levels in the spring that limited the availability of mudflats and shoreline. Shorebird migration peaked in mid-May (Figures 1 & 2).

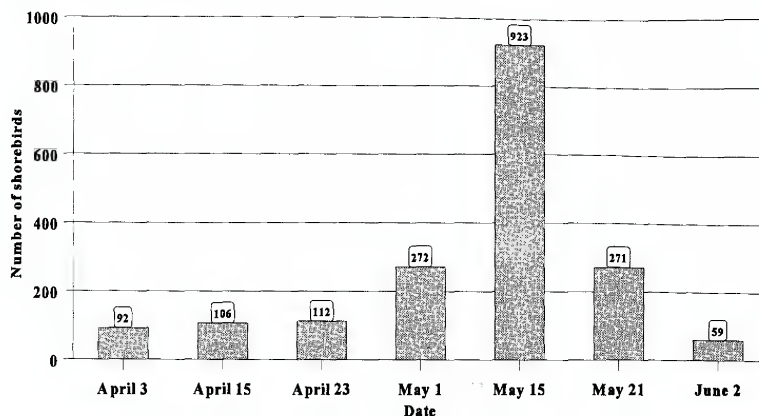


Figure 1. Number of shorebirds by date at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

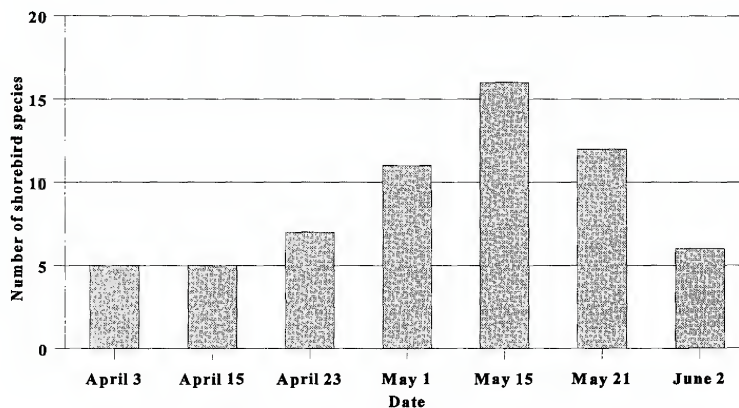


Figure 2. Number of shorebird species by date at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

Sixty-four additional bird species were identified during the surveys (see Appendix). Nesting was documented for Blue-winged Teal (six ducklings at Little Salt Fork on May 21) and Loggerhead Shrike (two juveniles at Arbor Lake and five nestlings at Otto easement on June 2). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles built and defended a nest site at Jack Sinn, but the outcome was not determined. The Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at Otto easement on April 23, and hunting overhead there on May 15 was the Peregrine Falcon. On May 1, the Virginia Rail was at Jack Sinn, and the Sora was heard at Arbor Lake on May 15.

DISCUSSION

An estimated 3,244 acres of saline wetlands remain in eastern Nebraska (LaGrange 1997). The ISS sites for this study represent 160 acres, or 5% of the total. Based on our initial survey, and assuming that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remaining eastern saline wetland acres provide stopover habitat similar to our survey sites, we estimate that more than 20,000 shorebirds may use these highly vulnerable staging areas during spring migration. These surveys will continue for the 1997 fall migration. We are hoping to repeat the surveys during the spring and fall migrations of 1998 and 1999, depending on availability of personnel. Persons interested in assisting with these surveys or setting up a shorebird survey elsewhere in Nebraska should contact John Dinan at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks to Chris Colt, Winter Smith, and Jennifer Delisle for their expert assistance and good company during the surveys. We would also like to thank the Nature Conservancy for allowing us access to their property.

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APPENDIX

Additional bird species at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997: Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Sedge Wren, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Le Conte's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink,

Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER NEST IN KIMBALL COUNTY

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On 18 May 1995 I observed two adult Mountain Plovers 5 mi west and 1.25 mi north of Bushnell in southwest Kimball County. The birds were in an area of short-grass prairie interspersed with clumps of prickly pear and bare ground. I observed both birds almost continuously from 1-2 p.m. MDT. The first bird was along the road south of the fenceline, just after the road climbs on top of the plateau. The second bird was about 0.1 mi to the north on the west side of the road. Both birds were medium-sized, plain shorebirds, similar in shape and posture to a Killdeer. The crown, nape, mantle, and upperwings were pale brown. The forehead and lores were white with a narrow black band separating them from the brown crown. The underparts were white with some buffy wash on the flanks. The legs were long and pale-colored. The posture was very upright, unlike other plovers. At approximately 1:45 p.m. I located the nest of the first bird. It contained three eggs and was 15 m east of the road on top of the plateau. The nest was a shallow depression in the ground, lined with small pebbles. As I examined the nest, the bird remained close by, giving several loud, whistled, "whit" notes in an attempt to distract me away. I photographed both the nest and the adult bird, then left to avoid further disturbance.

Mountain Plovers are rare breeders in Nebraska. There are four previous nesting records as follows: a nest on 8 July 1859 near North Platte (Ducey 1988), a half-grown fledgling on 7 June 1975 7 mi west of Bushnell (Lock 1975, Bennett 1976), an adult with three half-grown young on 18 July 1983 3-4 mi north of Highway 30 and 1 mi east of the Wyoming border (Cox 1983), and a nest with three eggs from 21-23 May 1990 at this same location found by Fritz L. Knopf (Clausen 1990). Small numbers of Mountain Plovers probably occur most years in Kimball County. There, they could nest in small patches of short-grass prairie or on fallow fields. I thank Ross Silcock for providing information on previous nesting records of this species in Nebraska.

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WHOOPIING CRANE SIGHTINGS DURING MARCH-MAY 1997 MIGRATION
 Compiled from information provided by Steven Anschutz
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During the 1996-97 winter, 158 (143 adult/subadult and 15 juvenile) Whooping Cranes stayed at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Two early migrants in Nebraska were an adult-plumaged bird first observed on 9 March, and a juvenile confirmed on 19 March. Neither of these birds wintered at Aransas, so the total population was therefore 160 (144 adult/subadult and 16 juvenile). All 158 cranes wintering at Aransas were present 3 April, but by 10 April, about 103 cranes had begun to migrate, and by 24 April, only 13 cranes were still at Aransas. All cranes had migrated by 6 May.

Migrations for Nebraska are given in the following table. Locations by township and range, and data for other states can be obtained from the NBR Editor or from Wally Jobman at the address listed under the title. All sightings in the table were confirmed. WPA = Waterfowl Production Area.

<u>1997 Sighting Date</u>	<u>No. of Cranes</u> <u>adults + young</u>		<u>Location</u>
3/9	1		Buffalo Co., 4.5 mi. south, 1.75 west of Gibbon, Platte River.
3/10-4/17	1		Hall Co., 3 mi. west of Doniphan, Platte River.
3/19-4/7	+	1	Buffalo Co., 4.5 mi. south, west of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/8	+	1	Lincoln Co., 4 mi. south of Hershey.
4/14	1		Kearney Co., 6 mi. south of Gibbon.
4/14-16	2		Kearney Co., 2 mi. south of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/15-16	2		Holt Co., 1 mi. south, 2.5 west of Atkinson.
4/15-17	12		Valley Co., 1 mi. north, 1.5 east of Elyria, North Loup River.
4/15-17	4		Kearney Co., 6 mi. south, 11 east of Minden, Jensen WPA.
4/15-17	2	+	1 Custer Co., 8 mi. east of Callaway.
4/18-19	+	1	Phelps Co., 4.5 mi. south, 1 west of Overton.
4/21-24	3		Buffalo Co., 5 mi. south, 2 west of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/25-28	+	1	Gosper Co., 9 mi. east, 5 north of Elwood.
5/12	2		Lincoln Co., 20 mi. northeast of North Platte on Hwy 83, flying.

The first dates for confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were 9 March in the United States and 6 April in Canada. The last sighting was 25 May in Saskatchewan, Canada. Sightings were reported from Oklahoma (1), Kansas (5), Nebraska (14), South Dakota (4), North Dakota (5), and Saskatchewan (19).

A spring blizzard struck western Nebraska and the Dakotas on 5 and 6 April, and cold, snowy weather continued until 12 April. The migration peak was probably during the week of 13 April. In Nebraska, 12 adult-plumaged cranes (the largest group ever confirmed in Nebraska) were observed on 15 April. At least two juveniles and possibly as many as five (three sightings may have been the same bird) migrated alone or with Sandhill Cranes.

SHOREBIRD MIGRATION IN THE EASTERN RAINWATER BASIN-SPRING 1997
Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

The Rainwater Basin is arguably Nebraska's most productive area for observing migrant shorebirds, especially in spring. After several years of irregular shorebirding in the region, in 1997 I decided to perform regular shorebird censuses in the eastern portion of the RWB (eRWB).

CONDITIONS

High-water conditions were present at many basins during the fall of 1996. Presumably, these conditions persisted through the winter, as slightly higher than average water levels were noted at several basins in March. Good water levels during the winter apparently scoured many basins of old vegetation. Besides a snowstorm that occurred on 12 April, little precipitation fell during April and May. Therefore, since the basins' only source of water is rainfall and occasionally pumps at certain Waterfowl Productions Areas (WPAs) during waterfowl migration, water levels were decreasing throughout the spring. This created excellent shorebird conditions, but some basins dried too quickly and many dried up before migration was over (see below).

METHODS

Shorebird censuses were conducted on seven occasions during the spring of 1997, three times in April and four times in May. A minimum of five days was allowed to pass before another census period began. Each location was visited officially once during each census period. During each visit, shorebird numbers were counted or rarely estimated, the latter only occurring when very large flocks were encountered. The locations visited during each census are listed below. Several basins are private and no official name for them is known. I have given these basins arbitrary names to make record-keeping easy. Their locations relative to nearby towns is given. Otherwise, federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) can be found in the Sportsman's Atlas, Delorme Atlas, or County Road Maps. If a site dried up, the date on which that basin became dry and more or less had no shorebirds is given in parentheses following the locale.

Adams County Basins - Ayr Lake (23 May), Hastings Basin (se edge of Hastings on Elm St.) (23 May).

Clay County Basins - Bluewing WMA (3 May), East Harvard Basin (3 mi. e & 1 mi. n of Harvard), Great Little Basin (5.5 mi. n & 1 mi. e. of Ong), Hansen WPA, Harvard WPA, Hultine WPA (includes

the former Sandpiper WPA (16 May), Kissinger Basin WMA, Long Basin (7 mi. n & .5 mi. e. of Edgar) (3 May), Massie WPA, Moger WPA, North Harvard Basin (.5 mi. w. & 2.5 mi. n. of Harvard) (16 May), Pine Tree Hill Basin (3 mi. w & 2.5 mi. n. of Ong) (3 May), Roadside Basin (.5 mi w. & 6 mi. n. of Edgar) (15 May), Smith WPA, Theesen WPA.

Hamilton County Basins - Aurora Pond (1.5 mi. s. of Aurora), Gadwall WMA, Pintail WMA.

Fillmore County Basins - Griess WPA, Island Basin (2.5 mi. s. & 6 mi. w. of Geneva), Little Wilkins Basin (3 mi. e. of Grafton), Marsh Hawk WMA, Mallard Haven WPA (23 May), Miller's Pond (WPA, 2.5 mi. s. of Shickley), Pearson Basin (3.5 mi. s. & 2 mi. w of Shickley), Rauscher WPA, Real WPA (17 May), Rolland WPA, Wilkins WPA (10 May), Willet Basin (3 mi. n. & 1.5 mi w. of Shickley).

Seward County Basins - North Lake Basin WMA, Tamora Basin (.5 mi. s. of Tamora), Goehner Basin (WMA, 2 mi. n. & 1 mi. w. of Goehner).

York County Basins - Barn Basin (4.5 mi. e. & 1 mi. s. of McCool Junction) (3 May), County Line WPA, Kirkpatrick WMA, Sinniger WPA (both basins), Spikerush WMA/Waco WPA.

Thayer County Basin - Father Hupp WMA.

RESULTS

SPECIES	APRIL			MAY				TOTALS
	3-4	18-19	25-26	2-4	7-10	16-17	23	
Black-bellied Plover			1	3	41	146	26	217
American Golden-Plover	2	28	11	20	280	708	36	1085
Snowy Plover				2	2	1		5
Semipalmated Plover		1	35	113	115	65	2	331
Piping Plover				3		2		5
Killdeer	276	112	110	63	86	85	59	791
American Avocet		30	13	79	28	42	1	193
Greater Yellowlegs	82	56	88	22	1	1	1	251
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	46	898	344	70	116	10	1487
Yellowlegs, unident.	1		5					6
Solitary Sandpiper			1	2	1			4
Willet		3	53	153	29	1		239
Spotted Sandpiper					7	18	7	32
Upland Sandpiper				2	2	9		13
Whimbrel				1		1		2
Hudsonian Godwit		38	12	12	75	122	41	300
Marbled Godwit		1	6	10		3		20
Ruddy Turnstone					5	35		40
Sanderling				1	19	1	3	24
Calidris species				29	24	20		73
Semipalmated Sandpiper		29	22	915	907	968	557	3398
Western Sandpiper				8				8
Least Sandpiper		2		117	329	469	86	1003
White-rumped Sandpiper			1	348	1648	5544	1442	8983
Baird's Sandpiper	24	175	299	253	50	58	44	903
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	50	270	54	160	166	61	773
Dunlin	2	2	42	14	16	70	13	159
Stilt Sandpiper			1	10	257	1119	207	1594
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				9	169	32	6	216
Short-billed Dowitcher					10	95	1	106
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	2	104	2306	602	85		3100
Common Snipe	130	7	7	5				149
Wilson's Phalarope			11	266	231	201	89	798
Red-necked Phalarope					4	12		16
Totals	533	582	1990	5164	5168	10,195	2692	26,324

DISCUSSION

Brief comments on the occurrence of certain species are mentioned here.

American Golden-Plover: The largest flock was 273 at Freeman L. on 17 May. An additional flock (not officially recorded) of 81 was found in a field on 17 May in Fillmore Co.

Piping Plover: Total number of birds recorded was lower than expected; higher numbers have been encountered in previous springs.

Lesser Yellowlegs: A genuine "wave" was observed. The species was abundant and ubiquitous on 25 April when most of the 898 were tallied. On the following days, most of the sightings were unofficially revisited and very few Lesser Yellowlegs were found.

Ruddy Turnstone: A large flock: 21 at the Cattle Yard Basin, Sinniger WPA.

White-rumped Sandpiper: A large flock: 3600 at Freeman L. on 17 May.

Dunlin: A large flock: 36 at Mallard Haven on 25 April.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: An additional flock (not officially recorded) of 116 was found in a plowed field on 17 May in Fillmore Co.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Like the Lesser Yellowlegs, a "wave" was also noted with this species. Most of the 95 totaled 16-17 May were found on 16 May; few could be seen the following day and only a single could be found on 23 May. Large flocks: 31 at Mallard Haven on 16 May, 22 at Father Hupp WMA on 16 May, and 16 at South Basin, Sinniger WPA.

CONCLUSION

Totals of 26,324 individuals and 32 species of shorebirds were recorded during the spring of 1997. The numbers recorded this spring may seem large, but from my experience, they are probably close to what can be expected during a typical spring. In fact, greater numbers of shorebirds were present in April and early May of 1994 than during the same period in 1997.

TWO HYBRID DIVING DUCKS AT CUNNINGHAM LAKE, DOUGLAS COUNTY
Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

During the spring of 1997 I had the opportunity to observe and study two apparent hybrid diving ducks at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas County. Both birds appeared to be mature males in breeding plumage. One bird was a suspected Redhead x Canvasback hybrid and the other was a suspected Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid. Sibley (1994) states that both hybrid combinations occur "occasionally."

The Redhead x Canvasback hybrid was observed on 11-19 March. The hybrid associated exclusively with Redheads, even though Canvasbacks were relatively close at times. The overall size of the bird was similar to that of a Redhead, although the back appeared broader. The head shape was intermediate between the two suspected parental species. The forehead was sloped more than a Redhead's, but the overall head shape was rounder than that of a Canvasback. The "rear" portion (uppertail and undertail coverts and tail) was black, as was the breast. The mid-portion of the body was a pale, silvery gray, intermediate between the two suspected parental species. The head was colored a bright chestnut, with no darker or black markings towards the crown or

bill. The iris color was red. The bill length was similar to that of a Redhead, but the structure was reminiscent of a Canvasback. The bill appeared rather dark, although the tip was noticeably darker. On the topside of the bill, there was a pale area of light blue immediately adjacent to the black tip. The sides of the bill, below the nostrils, also showed a lightening, although this could only be observed under ideal light conditions. The very base and the area near the cutting edge of the bill were black.

Haramis (1982) described seven Redhead x Canvasback hybrids (specimens or trapped birds), but only one was taken with Redheads; it was also the only one that possessed an all-dark bill with faint-blue patches near the base. The other six hybrids were taken or captured in Canvasback flocks, and all possessed bills that were colored like that of a Redhead. The bird that I observed, and presumably the other dark-bill hybrid mentioned in Haramis (1982), appeared very much like a Common Pochard, with the exception of the bill.

The suspected Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid was observed 15-19 March. The accompanying photograph shows the overall appearance of the bird, which associated with Common Goldeneyes. The size was comparable to that of the two suspected parental species. This bird had a more peaked head shape than a Hooded Merganser, but it had a short crest like a Hooded Merganser. The upperparts were primarily black. The folded wing showed white patches similar to that of a Common Goldeneye. The long tertials were white with black fringing, like a Hooded Merganser. The bird had two black vertical bars on the side of the breast, similar to, but not as bold, as on a Hooded Merganser. The vermiculations of the flanks were similar to those of a Hooded Merganser, but were gray rather than rufous. The head was a solid, metallic green, similar to the head of a Common Goldeneye. The iris color was gold. The bill shape was longer and slimmer than the bill of a Common Goldeneye, but broader at the base than that of a Hooded Merganser. The bill was all black.



Just as the morphological features of this bird appeared confused, so did the behavior. One morning I was observing it with a group of 32 male Common Goldeneyes, who were actively performing "head throws." The apparent hybrid, caught up in all the excitement, was also performing. The display started with the head gently being brought down and forward, similar to the movement of a Common Goldeneye before the head is thrown backwards. Rather than directly proceeding with the head throw, the bird would pause for a second or two, looking as if it were paralyzed with confusion. Finally, it would dispassionately raise its head straight up as far as possible.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Sibley, D. 1994. A guide to finding and identifying hybrid birds. Birding 26:162-177.
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SPRING 1997 BIRD COUNTS DURING TRISTATE MEETING, AND FOR
NORTH PLATTE - LINCOLN COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The Ornithologists' Unions of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota held a Tristate spring meeting at Sioux City, IA on 16-18 May, organized by Bill Huser and committee members from Iowa and South Dakota, and hosted by the Loess Hills Audubon Society from South Sioux City, NE. Field trips were made into nearby areas of all three states. During an indoor session, a paper on "Migrating hawks along Iowa's Loess Hills" was presented by Loren and Babs Padelford. The banquet speaker was Ken Kaufman, who spoke on "Bird study and natural history in the 21st century."

During the weekend, a total of 196 bird species were seen, distributed as follows: Iowa - 177, Nebraska - 122, South Dakota - 147. The data are given in Table 1.

Participants in the North Platte count on 10 May were Florence Clough, Harold and Esther Cunningham, **Gregg Hoover** (compiler), Pat McEvoy, Nancy Norris, Carol Somerhalder, and Howard and Wilma Wyman. Observers were in the field from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The temperature ranged from 40 - 84°F and the wind from 10 - 25 mph from the northwest. The sky was clear. A total of 82 species were seen, and the data are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Bird species observed during Tristate Ornithologists' Unions spring meeting 16 - 18 May, 1997, with the data for each state shown separately, and in North Platte - Lincoln County on 10 May, 1997. X = species present.

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X	X	X
Horned Grebe	X			
Eared Grebe	X			X
American White Pelican	X			X
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	
Least Bittern	X			
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X
Great Egret	X	X		
Snowy Egret	X			X
Cattle Egret	X	X	X	
Green Heron	X			
Black-crowned Night-Heron		X		
Snow Goose	X			
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck	X	X	X	X
Green-winged Teal	X		X	X
Mallard	X	X	X	X
Northern Pintail	X		X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	X		X	X
American Wigeon	X		X	
Canvasback	X		X	
Redhead	X		X	
Ring-necked Duck			X	
Lesser Scaup	X		X	X
Ruddy Duck	X		X	X
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X
Osprey			X	
Northern Harrier			X	X
Sharp-shinned Hawk		X	X	
Cooper's Hawk	X			
Broad-winged Hawk	X			
Swainson's Hawk		X	X	
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X
Rough-legged Hawk	X			
American Kestrel	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	X	X
Wild Turkey	X	X	X	X
Northern Bobwhite		X		X
Virginia Rail	X		X	
Sora	X		X	
American Coot	X	X	X	X
American Golden-Plover	X		X	
Semipalmated Plover	X			
Piping Plover	X			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X
American Avocet				X
Greater Yellowlegs	X			X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X		X	
Solitary Sandpiper	X		X	
Willet	X			
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X
Upland Sandpiper		X	X	X
Hudsonian Godwit	X		X	
Marbled Godwit	X			

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Ruddy Turnstone	X			
Sanderling	X			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X		X	
Least Sandpiper	X		X	
White-rumped Sandpiper	X		X	
Baird's Sandpiper	X	X		
Pectoral Sandpiper	X		X	
Dunlin	X			
Stilt Sandpiper	X			
Short-billed Dowitcher	X			
Common Snipe	X			
Wilson's Phalarope	X		X	X
Franklin's Gull	X	X	X	
Ring-billed Gull	X			X
Herring Gull				X
Forster's Tern	X	X	X	
Least Tern	X			
Black Tern	X	X	X	X
Rock Dove	X	X	X	
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X		
Eastern Screech-Owl	X			
Great Horned Owl	X		X	X
Common Nighthawk	X		X	
Whip-poor-will	X			
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X	
Belted Kingfisher	X	X		
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X	X	
Alder Flycatcher		X		
Willow Flycatcher	X		X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	
Eastern Phoebe	X			
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	
Western Kingbird	X	X		X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X
Horned Lark	X	X	X	
Purple Martin	X	X	X	
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X	X	X
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X
Black-billed Magpie	X			
American Crow	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X		X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X
Brown Creeper			X	
Rock Wren			X	
House Wren	X	X	X	X
Sedge Wren	X		X	
Marsh Wren	X		X	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X
Veery	X		X	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	X	X	X	
Swainson's Thrush	X	X	X	
Wood Thrush	X	X	X	
American Robin	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X
American Pipit	X			
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X	X
Loggerhead Shrike	X	X		X
European Starling	X	X	X	X
Bell's Vireo	X	X		

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Solitary Vireo	X		X	
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X	
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	
Blue-winged Warbler		X	X	
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X	
Tennessee Warbler	X	X	X	
Orange-crowned Warbler	X		X	
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	
Northern Parula			X	
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X	X	
Magnolia Warbler	X	X	X	
Cape May Warbler	X		X	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	
Black-throated Green Warbler	X		X	
Blackburnian Warbler	X	X	X	
Palm Warbler	X			
Bay-breasted Warbler			X	
Blackpoll Warbler	X	X	X	
Cerulean Warbler		X	X	
Black-and-white Warbler	X	X	X	
American Redstart	X	X	X	
Ovenbird	X	X	X	
Northern Waterthrush	X	X	X	
Louisiana Waterthrush			X	
Kentucky Warbler	X	X		
Mourning Warbler	X	X		
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	
Wilson's Warbler	X	X	X	
Yellow-breasted Chat			X	
Scarlet Tanager	X	X	X	
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X	
Lazuli Bunting	X			
Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Dickcissel	X	X	X	
Eastern Towhee	X	X	X	X
Spotted Towhee		X	X	
American Tree Sparrow				X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X	
Lark Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Lark Bunting				X
Savannah Sparrow	X	X	X	
Grasshopper Sparrow	X	X	X	X
LeConte's Sparrow	X			
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X	X	
Swamp Sparrow	X		X	
White-throated Sparrow	X	X	X	
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Harris' Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Bobolink	X	X	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X			
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Brewer's Blackbird				X
Great-tailed Grackle	X			
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X
House Finch	X	X	X	X
Red Crossbill	X			X
Pine Siskin	X			X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X

REMEMBERING DORIS GATES, A GREAT TEACHER
Mark M. Peyton, 2118 Av. H, Gothenburg, NE 69138

Doris Gates (1915-1983) taught Biology at Huntley, NE from 1938-1941, North Platte from 1941-1955, and Chadron State College from 1955-1974. She lived until her death at the foot of "Rush No More Butte" south of Chadron, was a member of the North Platte Tout Bird Club, and served as President of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and Editor of The Nebraska Bird Review.

Doris included plants and birds in her lectures on Biology, but she taught much more than that because she understood the beauty of life. She believed that beauty was in what you did rather than what you looked like, in what you were rather than what you were not. Maybe that's why she wanted to return as a Turkey Vulture in her next life. Her philosophy, which I try to pass on, allows me to forget the rotting, smelly mass of feathers I am trying to sketch, instead seeing dihedral wings soaring up and over Doris's former home.

Turkey Vultures are the consummate hang gliders. No amount of technical skill, gadgetry, or engineering can match the grace, majestic beauty of flight, and effortless poise these birds possess in the air. Yet they are ugly. They have a small, red, mostly bald head and small "hairs" that dot their skull like three-day-old whiskers on an old man. You can see their ears, which are covered by feathers in other birds. The beak is unusually long with a hardened, cornified tip and a huge nostril opening, which lets one look through it to the other side and is as out-of-place as the beak, which is like a big nose.

As I look at the dead bird, which reminds me of a runny-nosed, watery-eyed, rummy, bald-headed old man who needs a shave, I remember what Doris Gates told me and no longer see the ugly. I see a graceful, winged wonderment of the heavens, a magnificent collection of cytoplasm and tissue, a creature to aspire to in another life, simply because I had Doris Gates as a friend and teacher. I see the creature of beauty and say out loud, "Thank you, Miss Gates!"

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

A 12-volume work entitled "Handbook of the Birds of the World" is in the making, with nine authors representing six countries (four from the U.S.) and 17 artists. The first three volumes have been published, and the fourth is due in December 1997. Each volume is illustrated with color photographs, color plates, and distribution maps. The publisher is Lynx Edicions, Passeig de Gràcia, 12, 08007 Barcelona, Spain. The first four volumes can be purchased for US \$580 (special offer until 12/31/97), or monthly payments can be arranged (no extra postage or packaging charges). Further information can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.hbw.com>. ----Editor

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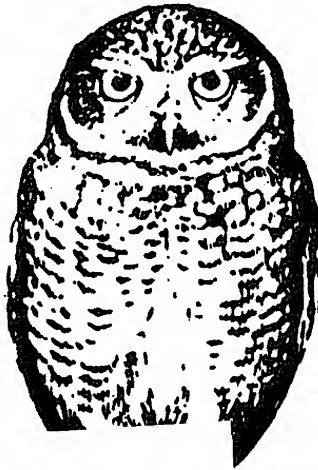
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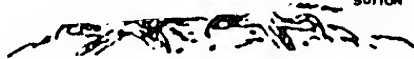
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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS, AUGUST 1997-January 1998
Compiled from Information Provided by
Steven Anschutz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
203 West Second St., Grand Island, NE 68801

Cooperation throughout the Whooping Crane flyway continues to be excellent, and special thanks go out to each participant. Between 1977 and 1988, 132 juvenile birds were color-marked on the breeding grounds, and 40 were accounted for during the winter of 1997-98. Fourteen color-marked Whooping Cranes were observed during the fall migration. All sightings of color-marked birds are maintained at the Grand Island office. The importance of observers looking closely for the colored leg bands cannot be overemphasized.

Based on observations of the breeding grounds during the summer of 1997, about 192 Whooping Cranes were expected to arrive at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas during the fall. The first arrival was confirmed on 21 October. A record 181 Whooping Cranes are believed to have reached Aransas, including 29 young birds, also a record number. On 22 January 1998, a juvenile Whooping Crane was confirmed to be wintering with Sandhill Cranes near San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Brazoria County, Texas. Thus, a total of 182 Whooping Cranes (152 adults/subadults and 30 young) were wintering at Aransas and in Brazoria County, Texas. Two sets of twins were observed in Saskatchewan, Canada during the fall migration, but only one set arrived at Aransas, the first to reach there since the winter of 1964-65. As of 29 January 1998, eight adult/subadult cranes, of the number anticipated, had not arrived at Aransas. The only confirmed mortality was a subadult found dead under a powerline in Saskatchewan on 13 October 1997.

The first dates for confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were 11 August in Canada and 14 September in the United States. The last sighting date was 7 December in Texas. Confirmed sightings were reported from Saskatchewan (46); North Dakota (14); South Dakota (13); Nebraska (6); Kansas (11); Oklahoma (3); and Texas (1). The 13 confirmed sightings reported in South Dakota set a fall migration record for the state. The combined total of 94 confirmed sightings in Canada and the United States established a new fall migration record.

The weather during September through mid-October was mild. The only major storm during the fall migration occurred on 24-25 October when heavy snow fell over parts of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Aided by low-pressure systems, which reached the Texas coast on 1 and 5 November, 122 birds arrived at Aransas between 31 October and 6 November. Temperatures during November and December were normal or above normal with no major storms.

In addition to the confirmed and probable sightings in Nebraska shown in the following table, there were several unconfirmed sightings, including 2 adults flying over the west edge of Grand Island, Hall Co. on 27 October, 20-25 adults flying near Johnson Lake in Dawson Co. on 26-27 October, and the following sightings in Custer Co.: 1 adult flying 1 mi. east of Callaway on 14 October, 2 adults flying over Comstock on 23 October, and 1 adult flying 6 mi. east and 2 mi. north of Broken Bow on 30 October.

Legal descriptions of locations by township and range, and information for other states can be obtained from the NBR Editor or from Mr. Wally Jobman at the address given under the title.

Sighting Dates
8/97-1/98No. Cranes
adults/youngLocationConfirmed Sightings:

10/21-23	5	Brown Co., 3 mi. west, 3 mi. south of Ainsworth.
10/23	2	Garfield Co., 6 mi. northwest of Burwell, Calamus Reservoir.
10/22-31	4 / 2	Blaine Co., Middle Loup River, 0.75 mi. downstream from Milburn Diversion Dam, 2 mi. northwest of Milburn.
10/23-24	2	Lincoln Co., Lake Maloney, 6 mi. south, 2 west of North Platte.
10/24-31	5 / 2	Buffalo Co., 9 mi west of Pleasanton.
10/30-31	2	Custer Co., 0.5 mi. north of Milburn.

Probable Sightings:

10/21	1	Cherry Co., 6 mi. north of Valentine.
10/25-26	2 / 1	Custer Co., 9 mi. south of Comstock.
10/29-30	2	Custer Co. near Victoria Springs.

A PROBABLE NESTING OF CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga columbiana*) IN
NEBRASKA

Wayne Mollhoff, 1817 Boyd St., Ashland, NE 68003-1752

This report provides details on the probable nesting of Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) in Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., Nebraska, in 1997. It also corrects an erroneous report of nesting in the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska (Silcock & Jorgensen 1997b).

A single Clark's Nutcracker was first noted coming to a suet feeder at the home of Ms. Edna C. Thomas in Morrill 8-9 Jan 1997. It came to the feeder at least weekly and was often seen daily. A second Clark's Nutcracker appeared during the second week of Feb. Initially, the bird already present was antagonistic towards it and tried to drive it away. Over a period of several days the agonistic behavior decreased and by the end of the week the two were coming to the feeder together. Thereafter, they came to feed together regularly, usually daily, through the rest of Feb. and all of March. By early April only one bird came to the feeder, still usually daily. On 27 April this nutcracker was noted carrying off

a large chunk of suet toward a row of large cottonwoods several hundred meters away, arousing suspicion that it was carrying food to young. The trees were searched unsuccessfully for a nest.

On 7 May the adult bird came to the feeder accompanied by what appeared to be a juvenile bird, which hung back from the feeder, sitting in the shadows of a branch and begging for food (begging call, lowered body, fluttering wings, open mouth), but the adult did not feed it, nor did the begging bird feed itself. On 8 May the two birds returned to the feeder. This time the juvenile was in direct sunlight and Ms. Thomas noted the following plumage characteristics: a tannish-gray cast to the facial feathers around the beak and eyes; gray body feathers were dull colored with a slight tannish cast, rather than a clean gray like the adult's; the dark flight feathers in the wings had a definite brownish tinge rather than pure black like the adult's. Overall, she reported that the plumage was "softer appearing" than the adult's. Most of the color differences were subtle, noticeable only in direct sunlight at close range (she was able to approach to within 3 meters without alarming the young bird). On this occasion, after the adult fed itself and flew away, the young bird remained and eventually began to feed itself.

The adult continued to bring the young bird to the feeder for about a week. During this time, the adult would eat and then fly away, leaving the young one to feed itself. The adult was never seen feeding the young bird and was last seen at the feeder on 18 May. The young bird continued to come to the feeder almost daily and was last seen there on 3 June. Initially, it was remarkably tame and tolerated the presence of humans, cats, and noises. By 30 May, however, it had become more wary, scolding at cats and squirrels, and human activity would frighten it away.

Ms. Thomas had fairly extensive previous experience with Clark's Nutcrackers in Colorado over a 25-year period and was aided in her observations by information from friends still there. Her own previous experience, coupled with guidance from knowledgeable contacts and information from Bent's Life Histories, combined to allow her to search for and recognize the correct behavioral and plumage clues to adequately establish the age of the bird as a juvenile.

The timing and sequence of events fit with what would be expected for a nesting in this area. In the nearest recorded nesting, in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota, well-developed young were found in the nest on 16 April 1987, as well as young just out of the nest on 9 April 1987; in addition, recently fledged young were found on 29 April 1985 (Peterson 1985, 1988). The only other reported possible nesting in Nebraska was of a begging young bird being fed that "...was probably out of the nest not more than a few weeks..." when seen on 17 May 1987 (Tomback 1995). Based on the above, one would expect egg laying in this area to occur about mid- to late March, with the young leaving the nest in April.

There are several aspects of this report that are at variance with expected "normal" nesting. One is the disappearance of one of the adults about the time of hatching. Since both sexes normally care for the young, thus making abandonment unlikely, this might be explained by the death of one of the pair. The failure of the adult to feed the begging young bird also seems odd, especially since the young are normally dependent on the adults for food until late July or later (Diana F. Tomback, pers. comm.)

Perhaps the biggest anomaly is the nesting habitat. All reported breeding activities of the species on record have taken place in coniferous forest, usually with one or more pine species

to provide seeds for food. Nesting nutcrackers usually feed young with seeds stored the previous fall, although available alternative foods have been used when no seeds were produced (Diana F. Tomback, pers. comm.). Contrast this with Morrill, NE, which is surrounded by short- and mid-grass prairie, a limited amount of farmland, and widely scattered, planted trees, mostly deciduous. Within the town, there are a few ornamental conifers but probably not in enough numbers nor of the right species to support the usual caching of pine seeds, which is a prerequisite to normal breeding. Thus, the habitat would appear to be totally "wrong" for nutcrackers to attempt breeding. This may be the first-ever documented report of extralimital breeding, away from both "normal" habitat and range (Davis and Williams 1964). However, the birds were in Morrill when they would normally be expected to be establishing a breeding territory. This followed a widespread cone-crop failure the previous fall in the Front Range of the Rockies in Colorado (Diana F. Tomback, pers. comm.) and the presence of a normal or somewhat less than normal cone crop in northwest Nebraska (Mike Watts, pers. comm.)

Other nutcrackers were noted in the western Pine Ridge at the end of December 1996 (Silcock & Jorgensen 1997a). I saw a single bird in West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., on 3 May 1997; a flock of at least 6 was noted near Chadron State Park, Dawes Co., on 15 May 1997 (Russ Benedict, pers. comm.); and two small flocks were in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., on 22-23 May (Silcock & Jorgensen 1997b). Finally, I saw 4-6 birds in West Ash Creek Canyon on 30 May. This last group seems to be the source of the erroneous report, apparently due to a misunderstanding, of "Two additional nestings ... reported in the Pine Ridge..." (Silcock & Jorgensen 1997b). On 30 May a family-sized group of the birds was noted and there were some indications of the presence of young birds, but further review of the plumage and the observed behavior failed to demonstrate the conclusive evidence needed to prove breeding. A nest found in the immediate area that was suspected to be a nutcracker nest, also remains unidentified after comparison with museum specimens and written descriptions.

Thus, we have some evidence for successful breeding by a pair of Clark's Nutcrackers, which appeared to be occupying a territory through the season of courtship, nesting, hatching, and fledging. One of the pair was seen repeatedly with a recently-fledged young bird at the proper time. Because the habitat for miles in every direction from Morrill is almost treeless and inhospitable to the species, the most logical interpretation seems to be that the bird was indeed hatched there. However, because we did not actually find the birds with their nest, nesting by the species in this state has not been conclusively demonstrated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to thank Ms. Edna Claire Thomas for so readily sharing her careful observations and so patiently answering my many questions via telephone, on site, and through a series of written exchanges. Without her astute observations and willing assistance, this report could not exist.

I also wish to thank the following people: Dr. Diana F. Tomback, University of Colorado, for her comments and insight at various stages of this study; Richard Peterson, Coordinator of the South Dakota Bird Atlas Project, for details on his observations of Clark's Nutcracker in that state; Hugh Kingery for making arrangements for me to view nests in the collection at the Denver Museum of Natural History; Mike Watts, forestry technician with the U.S. Forest Service at Chadron, NE for sharing his observations on

the pine-cone crop; and Russ Benedict for sharing his observations. Special appreciation is extended to Gary and Nancy Fisher of the Ash Creek Guest Ranch, and to Jeff and Sami Guest, all of them Crawford-area ranchers, who extended their hospitality during a 48-hour snowbound period during an April blizzard.

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NOTES ON THE NESTING BIOLOGY OF PYGMY NUTHATCHES
IN NEBRASKA

Wayne Mollhoff, 1817 Boyd St., Ashland, NE 68003-1752

INTRODUCTION

Pygmy Nuthatches (*Sitta pygmaea*) were considered to be no more than casual or rare winter visitors to the northwest part of Nebraska by previous investigators (Bruner et al. 1904; Swenk 1918; Haecker et al. 1945; Rapp et al. 1958, 1971). I.S. Trostler's earlier comment that the species was "a rare resident, breeds in Omaha" (Bruner 1896) was later felt to be in error, as evidenced by Bruner's later comment that it was, "A fall and winter visitor.....not breeding in the state." (Bruner et al. 1904.)

The first evidence of breeding was the collection of a juvenile male by Dr. Harrison Tordoff for the University of Kansas on 18 July 1957, 5 miles north of Harrison, Sioux Co. (Ford 1959). A note on nesting in Dawes Co. by Doris Gates was included in the annual nesting report for 1961, but there were no details of date, location, or visual evidence of breeding (Wensien 1962). Unfortunately, I could not locate further details of the report. The next indication of breeding was a report of a pair of adults carrying food to young in a nest in 1970 at Ft. Robinson State Park, Sioux Co. (Rosche 1972). A report of an adult carrying food in 1981 in either Dawes or Sioux County was appended to the nesting report for that year (Bennett 1982). During the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project (1984-89), the species was reported from eight survey blocks in Dawes and Sioux Counties, with one confirmed breeding record (Mollhoff unpublished). More recently, apparent breeding has been reported, without publication of details, from Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties (Grzybowski 1996).

While doing field work on other early-nesting birds in northwestern Nebraska on 3 May 1997, I found Pygmy Nuthatches to be both rather common and very involved in courtship and nest

building, and I decided to document this poorly known species. Although I must emphasize that these are only preliminary observations, I feel that an adequate sample size was studied to warrant publication. Further long-term study is planned to gain a better understanding of the breeding ecology of this interesting species.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The initial phase of this study took place in West Ash Creek Canyon in Dawes Co. (SE 1/4 of T31N, R51W), in one of the survey blocks established for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. This site is on the southern edge and approximately in the middle (west to east) of the Pine Ridge. Later, the study was expanded to include blocks at both ends of the Pine Ridge in Sioux and Sheridan Counties, to determine whether the findings were typical of the entire area. These sites were chosen because of my familiarity with the area and because they are on public land and readily available to current and future researchers. The blocks also appear to be representative of habitat in the area.

The arc of the Pine Ridge is the southernmost of the encircling ring of escarpments tipped outward by the Black Hills Uplift. The area in Nebraska stretches from 102° 30' to 104° W. and 42° 30' to 43° N. The forest, which cloaks the ridges and canyons, is the southernmost extension of the coniferous Black Hills forest, itself an eastern outlier of the Rocky Mountain forests. The forest consists almost entirely of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with scattered red cedar (*Juniperus* sp.). The canyon floors are dominated in many places by riparian stands of mixed hardwoods, consisting mostly of hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), willow (*Salix* sp.), cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.), elm (*Ulmus americana*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Elevation ranges from about 1200 meters (3900 ft.) at the lower northeast end of the Ridge in Sheridan Co., to about 1575 meters (5100 ft) at the northwestern end in Sioux Co. Local relief from canyon bottom to adjoining ridge top is usually in the range of 100 - 150 meters (300-450 ft.).

The climate may be characterized as semi-arid and continental with hot summers and cold winters. It is subject to prolonged dry periods, with diurnal temperature fluctuations of 25° C (or 45° F) being the norm during the breeding season. The overall setting is shortgrass prairie surrounding the scarp woodland of the ridges and canyons (Urbatsch & Eddy 1973).

Equipment

Equipment essential for this study included a pair of lineman's pole-climbing spikes and belt, a Coleman Powermate inspector's pocket light, Model 5398C700 (which has a 1.7 cm diameter flashlight head attached to the flashlight body by a 20 cm length of semi-flexible wire that can be bent to the desired shape), an oval mirror 2.0 X 4.5 cm glued to a 30 cm length of 14 gauge copper wire, topographic maps, leather gloves, canteens, safety rope, camera, binoculars, tape recorder, notebook, etc. and a backpack to carry it all.

Methods

On 3-4 May 1997, pairs of Pygmy Nuthatches were located initially by random encounter while traversing habitats in West Ash Creek Canyon, from canyon floor to ridgetop. After noting similarities in the habitat used by the first six pairs found, further searching was concentrated in areas of similar habitat. If no birds were seen in likely habitat, a tape of their call was played and brought an immediate response if any were in the area.

Initially, eight pairs and three trios were located in the West Ash Creek area.

On a return visit to the site on 30 May 1997, four active nests were located. On 31 May 1997, I visited the block in Monroe Canyon (Gilbert-Baker State Wildlife Management Area), Sioux Co. (NW 1/4 of T32N, R56W) and found two pairs and two active nests, and a block in the Metcalf State Wildlife Management Area, Sheridan Co. (NW 1/4 of T33N, R45W), where I found four more pairs and two active nests. Thus, information was collected on a total of 17 pairs/trios and from 8 active nests. The birds in the West Ash study area were found along a 12 km (7.5 mi.)-long route scattered across 5 sections. The locations of each pair and of each active nest were plotted on a topographic map so that they could be relocated for further study.

After an active nest was found, the tree was climbed, either with the aid of the climbers and belt, or by free climbing if sufficient, solid hand- and foot-holds were present. Upon reaching the nest hole, the flexible head of the flashlight was bent and hung in the hole to illuminate the contents, and the mirror was inserted to bring the contents into view. It often took several minutes of adjusting the light and bending the mirror around the contortions of the narrow, twisting holes before the contents could be seen.

The nest holes constructed by the species are tiny, usually found in clusters placed exclusively in dead ponderosa pines, and therefore unlikely to be confused with those made by other cavity nesters found in the area. For this study, however, data on nest location, construction, etc. was collected only from active nests to preclude the possibility of misidentification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Habitat

Since the Pine Ridge lies at the eastern limit of Pygmy Nuthatch range, habitat use here may be at some variance from that observed nearer the core of its range. Other workers have consistently noted the close association of the species with ponderosa pine forests (Bailey & Niedrach 1965; Bent 1948; Ryser 1985). Some have commented on the near dependence of the birds on ponderosa pines, while others have noted that some use is made of other trees for foraging or nesting (Bent 1948; Scott et al. 1977).

In my study area, the only native coniferous trees present were ponderosa pine and red cedars. No use of the cedars was noted during the breeding season; the nuthatches observed thus far used pure to almost pure stands of ponderosa pines that were mature enough to bear cones. The stands ranged from areas where the trees shaded an estimated 40-50% of the ground, to dense, closed-canopy forest where the ground was 100% shaded and the boles were 5-10 meters apart. The birds were not noted in stands of saplings 2-6 meters tall, or in isolated saplings found scattered in stands of mature trees, although they very likely used them at least occasionally for foraging.

No birds were noted on the floors of the canyons among the deciduous trees or in the canyon-bottom stands of pines. The lowest birds found were about 1/3 of the way up the side of the canyon, but most (12 of 17 pairs) were at or near the tops of the ridges. They were most readily found along the ridge tops between canyons, often at the very upper reaches where small grassy clearings occurred, or near the forest - grassland border. These areas are often rather open, with perhaps 60-70% of the ground shaded and little or no undergrowth beneath the pines.

All active nests were within 40 meters of the edge of a

clearing or the forest edge, and half of them were located at the edge. This may give a somewhat skewed impression, however, because the nest trees were easier to find in this setting. Within stands of mature pines, the major limiting component seemed to be the availability of standing dead pines for nest holes. In those instances where there were no standing dead pines for a distance of .3 - 1.0 km, no nuthatches were found. Conversely, in extensive areas of healthy, vigorously growing pines, I often had only to search out an isolated dead tree of the proper specifications to find a pair of the birds. They seemed to be absolutely dependent on the presence of free-standing dead pines and did not use dead trees that were uprooted or broken and tipped against another tree.

Territory size

No attempt was made to map the specific boundaries of the territory of any of the pairs encountered, nor was a gridded search made in an attempt to locate all the pairs in a given area. However, a general idea of the breeding density could be inferred from the minimum distance between territorial pairs, which was about 200 meters. This distance occurred 4 times for the 17 pairs found, in extensive areas of what appeared to be suitable habitat. The same density was noted throughout the three separate study blocks.

Nests

Although instances have been reported of the species making opportunistic use of existing cavities (Bent 1948), the overall impression is that of all the nuthatch species found on this continent, the Pygmy Nuthatch is most likely to excavate its own nest hole. Harrison (1979) commented that of 17 nests he examined, all appeared to have been excavated by the birds themselves. Scott et al. (1977) stated that the species normally makes its own cavities.

All eight of the active nests examined in my study were in dead ponderosa pines and appeared to have been excavated by the birds themselves. No use was noted of natural cavities or of holes made by woodpeckers. The two newest holes appeared to be 1-4 years old, two were estimated at 5-10 years old, while the remaining four holes appeared to be at least 10 years old. These estimates were based on the comparative appearance of dead trees of known age from various burned areas in the vicinity, but are reasonably accurate. In trees with active nests, all nuthatch holes, both partial and complete, were noted for use as a baseline for continued study. Each active nest was identified and measured (after the young had fledged) to establish accurate known ages and time sequences for nest excavation, reuse, etc.

Each of the 8 trees examined had 1-2 completed nest holes, plus an additional 0-2 partially excavated holes. Several of the trees were in close proximity to another 1-2 dead tree(s), which also contained holes that appeared typical of the species. Close observation in future years will reveal whether the same hole is used repeatedly in successive years, or whether adjacent holes in the same or nearby trees are used in some sort of rotation system.

While locating nesting pairs initially on 3-4 May 1997, only one case of excavation of a new hole was noted. I watched one bird spend 10-12 minutes of actual excavation time during the 30 minutes I was watching. The hole was 2.0 cm in diameter and had penetrated 4.0 cm into the tree. When I revisited the site on 30 May 1997, the hole was 2.2 cm in diameter and excavated to a depth of 6 cm. Meanwhile, the pair had laid their eggs in a previously completed hole a meter higher up in the same tree. When rechecking the site

on 23 August 1997, I found that the entrance measured 2.5 X 3.0 cm and the entry tunnel was excavated to a depth of 7.0 cm but had not yet begun to expand to form the nest cavity. Two other pairs were modifying or completing holes that had been started several years before. In both cases, the holes were used for nesting in 1997.

Grinnell, cited in Bent (1948), reported a pair of Pygmy Nuthatches that were still excavating a nest hole after 35 days, but he did not indicate whether the nest was used that season. My own observations suggest that only 1 out of 11 pairs was actively excavating a new nest during nest-building season; that a new nest was still far less than one-fourth done after being worked on from mid-late April through late August; and that all active nests were in holes that had been initiated several years to more than a decade previously. Therefore, I believe that the excavation of a hole takes a year or more before it is actually used for nesting.

Bent (1948) and Harrison (1979) both found old holes in which the cracks and splits in the trunk of the tree, caused by drying and weathering, had penetrated into the nest cavity itself. These splits had sometimes been "weather-proofed" by packing the crack with nest material to allow continued use. Three of the eight nests in this study had been repaired in this manner, with the cracks or holes packed with plant fiber, nuthatch feathers, or wood and bark chips. Continued use of old holes may indicate extended nest-site fidelity by a pair and may correlate with the cooperative nesting behavior reported for the species (Sydeman et al. 1988).

Extended nest-site fidelity, that is, reuse of the same tree/hole for many years, and suggestions of cooperative breeding (3 of 17 "pairs" were trios), are clues that may indicate permanent family territories. In addition, Sydeman et al. (1988) reported year-round occupation of the territory by groups whose breeding units consisted of a breeding pair, plus 0-3 helpers made up of previous offspring. This raises intriguing implications. The birds have an enormous investment of time and energy in excavating just a single hole. Most pairs also had at least one or two partially completed holes available for completion when needed, many of them several years old. It appears to be common to have at least one extra completed hole ready as a "standby." Once completed, a hole appears to be used for years by successive generations of birds. Indeed, it is entirely possible that successive generations may be involved in excavating a given hole.

The investment of time and energy in excavating and maintaining a hole or suite of holes, plus their susceptibility to loss through blowdown, lightning, usurpation, etc., could logically lead to strategies to protect their investment. These may include: year-round occupation (and defense?) of the territory against neighboring groups of the same species; interspecific defense against other hole nesters; and cooperative breeding among parents, offspring, and siblings (Sydeman et al. 1988); all done to defend and propagate a family resource (the nest), which is passed on from generation to generation. The construction and maintenance of reserve holes may also serve other functions as well, e.g. extra roost sites during incubation for the "helpers," winter roosts and bonding for members of the extended family, etc.

Many previous workers have noted that nest holes are usually placed near the top of a dead, broken snag, with the implication that the holes were deliberately excavated in that position (e.g. Bent 1948; Johnsgard 1979). My observations lead me to a different conclusion. The new hole in the initial stage of excavation mentioned earlier was placed about 2/3 of the way up a dead tree, but the nest used by the pair this year was placed in a hole that was 1-2 years old and was located a meter farther up the tree,

while another partial hole was 15 cm above the new hole. This was very similar to other trees with multiple holes. Other standing snags with nest holes had partially completed holes in the detached top portion, which lay on the ground nearby. Based on these observations, I propose the following sequence of events. After a tree has been dead for several years, but the bark is still on the tree and retaining moisture, the wood is softened by decay and becomes somewhat spongy, enabling the nuthatches to begin work. The birds tunnel horizontally 3-6 cm, then turn sharply downward, enlarging the tunnel to form a cavity as they go deeper. If the wood is soft throughout the trunk, the hole simply expands to the necessary dimensions. If some portion of the trunk core is pitchy and the wood still sound, the hole turns to the side and down to form a rather flat cavity between the solid core and the outer surface (more than half the holes had this configuration). If solid wood is encountered before reaching the necessary distance in from the surface, hole excavation is suspended until decay progresses further. Other nest holes may be initiated during the succeeding several years while the bark persists on the tree, thus keeping the surface of the trunk moist and soft enough to work. Later, the dead bark falls from the tree and the outer layer of wood dries out, becoming quite durable and too hard for the nuthatches to initiate holes. The inside remains soft and probably becomes even softer as rot sets in due to the entrance of additional moisture through the holes. As the rot continues, the birds are able to complete the holes that were initiated in previous years, examples of which I witnessed in two of the active nests I found.

After a tree has been dead for a number of years and weakened by decay and/or nest holes, wind may break off the upper part, about 1/2 to 2/3 of the original height of the tree, which coincides with the zone where most nestbuilding occurs. This leaves a broken-off snag, with nest holes near where the break occurred. Nest trees still standing at full height had nest holes, both active and empty, extending from about 1/3 of the way up, to about 3/4 of the way to the top of the tree, and farther up to where the trunk becomes too small in diameter to excavate a hole. The smallest trunk diameter at which I found a nest hole completed was 14 cm. Of the eight nests examined, half were located in broken snags, with the holes located 1-5 meters below the top of the snag. Thus, the position of the hole relative to the top of a broken snag is more likely determined by the place where the tree is broken off by the wind after the hole is built, and not by the birds actively deciding to make a hole near the top of a broken-off snag.

Specific information concerning the eight nests is as follows:

Height of nest: mean, 7.1 meters (range: 3.75-9.5 meters)
Height of tree: mean, 9.9 meters (range: 5.5-14.0 meters)
Cavity depth: mean, 16 cm (range: 12-19 cm)
Typical entrance hole: 2.8 X 3.2 cm

The holes faced every direction except south and southeast. The lining of the nests ranged from nothing but the residual sawdust-sized wood chips resulting from excavation, to the addition of a few scales of pine bark, a few feathers (all appearing to be nuthatch feathers), or a few shreds of vegetable fibers or mammal hair.

Competition

While playing the taped call at a large old snag, which had several holes typical of those made by Pygmy Nuthatches, the replying call from a nearby pine was that of a Red-breasted

Nuthatch, which immediately appeared, apparently ready to defend the tree. The bird was in very faded plumage with only a slight rusty wash to the underparts, and had I not heard the call, I might have mistaken it for a Pygmy Nuthatch. Due to its pale coloration, I suspected that it was a female. It did not enter any of the nest holes present, so after it left, I climbed the tree and checked all the holes I could see but did not find a nest. As I descended, it returned and entered a hole that I had not noticed near the top of the snag, then left a few seconds later. I climbed back up the tree and as I was inserting the flashlight tip and mirror into the hole, I was nearly struck in the face by the incubating bird as it exploded out of the hole. It was even paler than its mate, but was indeed a Red-breasted Nuthatch. The entrance to the hole was encircled by fresh pitch, liberally smeared around the hole, as described for the species by Bent (1948) and Harrison (1979). Otherwise, the hole was typical of other Pygmy Nuthatch nest holes in size, placement, configuration, etc. It appeared to be a case of usurpation of an old Pygmy Nuthatch hole by the Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Another of the active Pygmy Nuthatch nests I found, also in an old hole in an old snag, appeared typical of other nests of the species and had the hole surrounded by pitch, but in this instance, the pitch was old and dry. I interpreted this to be a hole excavated by Pygmy Nuthatches, later usurped by Red-breasted Nuthatches and, still later, reoccupied by the former.

A third case of interaction with other nuthatch species was witnessed when I surprised a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches carrying nest material into a natural cavity they were preparing to use. When they saw me, they immediately began to scold me, and were joined within seconds by a trio of Pygmy Nuthatches and, a few seconds later still, by a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Once assembled, the birds directed their attention at one another, with the White-breasted Nuthatches soon driving off the other four birds.

Based on these few examples, it seems that the three nuthatch species do not tolerate the presence of one another, at least in the vicinity of the nest during the breeding season. Based on my observations of the large investment made by Pygmy Nuthatches in hole excavation and their apparent usurpation by at least the Red-breasted Nuthatches, I would speculate that this intolerance might be based at least in part on competition for nest sites.

Breeding Cycle

When the initial observations were made on 3-4 May 1997, I found eight pairs and three trios. One nest was in the initial stages of excavation and two other nest holes were being modified/completed. Two more pairs were noted carrying nest material. Another pair was foraging together in a tree when approached by a single bird from across a narrow canyon; the encroaching bird was immediately driven off.

On a return visit on 30-31 May 1997, a search was made for 10 of the pairs and 8 of them were found; it got dark before I had a chance to search for the remaining two pairs. Of the eight pairs, four nests were found. On the second day, the search was extended to the other two study areas, where six more pairs and four nests were found.

On 30 May 1997, three of the nests in the Dawes Co. study area held only eggs, while the fourth held three eggs and three newly hatched young, one with a piece of eggshell still stuck on its back. On 31 May 1997, the four nests all contained only eggs. The Dawes Co. nests held clutches of 6, 6, 7, and 7. The Sioux Co. nests held clutches of 6 and 7, while the Sheridan Co. nests both

contained clutches of 8 eggs.

On 30-31 May, with an overnight temperature of 50° F, all nests found before noon were being incubated and the adult usually did not leave the nest until I was within about a meter of the nest hole. During the afternoons, with the temperature about 80° F, I found both adults foraging nearby as I approached one nest. A nest found just at dusk was occupied, but the bird came to the hole and peered out at me as I approached the tree.

After completing my examination of the nests, I noticed that several of the birds returned and re-entered the nest before I had descended two meters from the hole. In the other cases, I was too busy concentrating on making a safe descent to observe what the birds were doing.

SUMMARY

Preliminary findings are reported on a study of Pygmy Nuthatches in the Pine Ridge area of northwest Nebraska, and detailed information on the nesting habits in this state is presented for the first time. A total of 17 pairs / trios of Pygmy Nuthatches was located, and eight active nests with eggs, or eggs and young, were found during two weekends of field work. The three study sites were located in the middle and at both ends of the Pine Ridge in Dawes, Sioux, and Sheridan Counties. The observations on nests with eggs appear to be the first reported in Nebraska, and extend the known breeding range eastward slightly (but not surprisingly). The density of breeding pairs appeared the same throughout the area and, combined with the appearance of the nest trees, lead me to believe that breeding has been taking place in the entire area for a very long time. The birds are restricted to ponderosa pine forest and appear to be absolutely dependent on the presence of standing dead pine trees for nest sites. An indication of cooperative breeding was noted. Initial observations indicate that an extended period is required for nest building.

FURTHER STUDY

Further observations are planned to gather more information on the timing of various aspects of the breeding cycle, especially hatching and fledging dates. More study is needed to document the occurrence, prevalence, and activities of "helpers" that assist the breeding pair, and to record interactions with, and niche separation from, other hole-nesting species in the area, especially among the three nuthatch species. A long-term study will be needed to better understand the extended nest excavation period, reuse of nests, usurpation/reoccupation of nest holes, and, most importantly, the natural history of the dead trees themselves, without which the species could not exist in the area.

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FALL FIELD REPORT, AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1997

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INTRODUCTION

Notable this Fall was very heavy coverage of the Panhandle during Sep-Oct, which yielded several outstanding records (all, of course, pending NOURC approval). Incredible were first Panhandle records of Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Prothonotary Warblers, 3rd record of Northern Waterthrush, and 4th record of Blackburnian Warbler. Philadelphia Vireo was found in the Panhandle for the 3rd time. Important also were 3 records of Hammond's Flycatcher, the 3rd-6th for the state, and likely a regular migrant, and 5 of Cassin's Vireo, previously known only by 2 specimens. Finally, from the Panhandle, 4 reports of Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher may be changing the status of this species there; there are still fewer than 10 such records.

Just as significant were 2 surprising easterly records, Clark's Grebe in Lancaster Co and a Plumbeous Vireo in Stanton Co.

Rarities independent of location were a potential 1st state record Eurasian Collared-Dove at Shelton; the NOURC will decide if this was (is!) a wild bird. It was a good fall for jaegers, 4 reported, 2 identified to species, a 2nd state record Parasitic and a 4th state record Pomarine. A Roseate Spoonbill flew into NE airspace for the state's 3rd record.

The OPPD Wetlands mitigation project in e Otoe Co yielded interesting waterbirds which are lacking in e NE due to virtually lacking cattail marsh habitat. Species seen there were Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, King Rail, and Common Moorhen.

Other species appeared in surprising numbers. There were single-locality, single-day counts of 3 Red-necked Grebes, 20,000+ Western Grebes, 10 Tundra Swans, 191 Hooded Mergansers, 54 Northern Harriers, 35,000 and 30,000 Franklin's Gulls, up to 30 Sabine's Gulls (for the season), 4000 Cliff Swallows, and 39 Wilson's Warblers.

Late dates were provided by Common Tern, Indigo Bunting, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, for no discernible pattern!

Finally, a new altitude record was set by a Brewer's Sparrow at Panorama Point in Kimball Co, the state's highest point. Eat your heart out, Colorado!

CORRECTION

In the 1996 Fall Report we listed a Black Tern at Sutherland Res 28 Oct; the date should have been 26-29 Sep.

ABBREVIATIONS

* = documentation provided; **ad(s)**: adult(s); **ADF**: Arbor Day Farm; **BOL**: Branched Oak L; **Cem**: cemetery; **CLNWR**: Crescent L NWR; **Co(s)**: County (ies); **FF**: Fontenelle Forest; **FL**: Funk Lagoon; **HCR**: Harlan Co Res; **imm(s)**: immature(s); **juv(s)**: juvenile(s); **L**: Lake; **LM**: L McConaughy; **n,s,e,w**, etc: cardinal points; **NC**: Nature Center; **NE**: Nebraska; **NM**: National Monument; **NNF**: Nebraska National Forest; **NOURC**: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee; **NPNWR**: North Platte NWR; **NWR**: National Wildlife Refuge; **OPPD**: Omaha Public

Power Division; **Res:** Reservoir; **RWB:** Rainwater Basin; **SL:** Sewage Lagoon(s); **SP:** State Park; **sp:** species; **SRA:** State Recreation Area; **WHNC:** Wildcat Hills NC; **WMA:** (State) Wildlife Management Area; **WPA:** (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area.

GAZETTEER

Arbor Day Farm: Nebraska City; **Branched Oak L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Buffalo Creek:** WMA, Banner-Scotts Bluff Cos; **Calamus Res:** SRA, Garfield-Loup Cos; **Carter Canyon:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Chadron SP:** Dawes Co; **Clear Creek Marshes:** WMA, Keith-Garden Cos; **Crescent L NWR:** Garden Co; **Cunningham L:** Omaha, Douglas Co; **Dead Timber:** SRA, Dodge Co; **DeSoto NWR:** Washington Co; **Enders Res:** SRA, Chase Co; **Facus Springs:** WMA, Morrill Co; **Fontenelle Forest:** Bellevue, Sarpy Co; **Funk Lagoon:** WPA, Phelps Co; **Gavin's Point Dam:** forms Lewis and Clark L, Knox-Cedar Cos; **Grandpa's Steakhouse L:** behind Grandpa's Steakhouse, Kearney, Buffalo Co; **Hansen Lagoon:** WPA, Clay Co; **Harlan Co Res:** SRA, Harlan Co; **Harvard Lagoon:** (formerly Inland Lagoon) WPA, Clay Co; **Holmes L:** Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **Jack Sinn Marsh:** WMA, Lancaster-Saunders Cos; **Johnson Lagoon:** WPA, Phelps Co; **Johnson Res:** SRA, Dawson-Gosper Cos; **Keystone L:** adjoins L Ogallala, Keith Co; **Kingsley Dam:** forms L McConaughy; **L Alice:** part of NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **L Babcock:** Platte Co; **L McConaughy:** Keith Co; **L North:** Platte Co; **L Minatare:** SRA, Scotts Bluff Co; **L Ogallala:** below Kingsley Dam, Keith Co; **Louisville Lakes:** SRA, Cass Co; **Monroe Canyon:** Sioux Co; **Neale Woods:** Douglas Co; **North Platte NWR:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Offutt (Air Force) Base L:** Sarpy Co; **Olive Creek L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Oliver Res:** SRA, Kimball Co; **OPPD Wetlands:** Otoe Co; **Pawnee L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; (Lillian Annette) **Pintail Marsh:** WMA, Hamilton Co; **Rainwater Basin:** region of natural wetlands in sc NE; **Rowe Sanctuary:** Kearney Co; **Sandhills:** native grassland region in nc NE; **Schramm SP:** Sarpy Co; **Scotts Bluff NM:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Sinninger Lagoon:** WPA, York Co; **Sowbelly Canyon:** Sioux Co; **Spikerush Basin:** WMA, York Co; **Stagecoach L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Summit Res:** SRA, Burt Co; **Sutherland Res:** SRA, WMA, Lincoln Co; **Swan Creek Res:** Saline Co; **Wehrspann L:** Omaha, Sarpy Co; **Wildcat Hills NC:** Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co; **Willow Creek L:** SRA, Pierce Co; **Winter's Creek L:** part of NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **Wolf L:** Dodge-Saunders Cos; **Wood Duck:** WMA, Stanton Co; **Yankee Hill L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Zorinsky L:** Omaha, Douglas Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon: The only report was of a single at Louisville Lakes SRA 31 Oct (Tom Aversi, Seattle).

Pacific Loon: At least 3 different birds were found at NPNWR 26 Oct-23 Nov (*SJD,JS). Elsewhere, singles were at Holmes L 28 Oct (*LE) and Skyview L, Norfolk, 1-2 Nov (MB, DH,NB).

Common Loon: The 3 present during the summer at L Ogallala were found on and off again during Aug (SJD,JGJ,JS). Another early bird, in alternate plumage, was found at NPNWR 2 Aug (SJD,JS,WRS,JGJ). The main migration occurred later in fall; high counts were 9 at NPNWR on 1 Nov (SJD) and 7 at BOL 9 Nov (JGJ).

Pied-billed Grebe: High count was 143 at CLNWR 12 Aug (MF). Late birds included a single 0.5 mi w of Wood Duck on 30 Nov (DH) and 2 at Grandpa's Steakhouse L 29 Nov (LR,RH).

Horned Grebe: Earliest was a single at BOL 20 Sep (JS). An excellent high count was 145 at NPNWR 8 Nov (SJD,JS). Last were 2 at LM 24 Nov (SJD).

Red-necked Grebe: The 3 reports made it an excellent fall for this species, the second in a row. Lone birds were reported from Willow

L, Brown Co, 27 Sep (*LR,RH), from Summit Res 9 Nov (*JGJ), and from LM 16-24 Nov (*SJD,JS).

Eared Grebe: High counts from the w include 326 at NPNWR 8 Aug (LK), 70 at CLNWR 12 Aug (MF), and 46 at Oliver Res 1 Nov (SJD). High counts from the e were no larger than 10. Last was a single at NPNWR on 29 Nov (SJD).

Western Grebe: In contrast to last fall when there were numerous easterly reports, only 8 birds were tallied in the e half this fall. Earliest was a single at FL 17 Aug (LR,RH). LM entertained spectacular numbers again this fall; 20,000+ was a count made by birders in a boat on 4-5 Oct (SJD,JS,WRS,JGJ), and 1,600 were still present on 24 Nov (SJD,JS). Highest count away from LM was 764 at NPNWR 26 Oct (SJD).

Clark's Grebe: Twelve were reported, 11 from either LM or NPNWR. The noteworthy exception was a single at Pawnee L on 11-19 Oct (JW,JGJ,JS,MB). Latest was a single at LM on 24 Nov (SD,JS). In addition, a hybrid Western X Clark's was reported from NPNWR on 15 Aug (SJD).

American White Pelican: Peak migration occurred during the latter half of Sep, when observers reported several counts in the hundreds. Highest were 1000 flying over Buffalo Co on 19 Sep (LR,RH) and 500 flying over Bellevue on 29 Sep (BP,LP). Late migrants were the 5 at BOL on 30 Nov (JS,BP,LP).

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts were 960 at BOL on 10 Oct (LE) and 350 at Nebraska City on 18 Oct (LF,CF). Individuals were noted at HCR and Sutherland Res at the end of the period; some will likely remain into Dec.

American Bittern: Most reports were from CLNWR, where 7 were found on 12 Aug (MF). Observations away from CLNWR were limited to 2 at FL 13 Sep-5 Oct (LR,RH) and 2 at Spikerush Basin 21 Sep (JGJ).

Least Bittern: The marshy wetlands mitigation area south of Nebraska City, near the OPPD Plant, was birded intensely during August, primarily due to the discovery of a Roseate Spoonbill nearby in adjacent Iowa (see below). While most missed the spoonbill in NE, observers made several exciting finds, beginning with Least Bittern. As many as 8 were found at the OPPD Wetlands 5-16 Aug (JS,SJD,WRS,BP,LP,MB). Elsewhere, a single was found at FL on 3 Aug (JS).

Great Blue Heron: High counts were 80 at FL on 2 Aug (LR,RH) and 62 at HCR on 14 Aug (SJD). Individuals commonly linger through the fall period into winter.

Great Egret: Up to 49 were present at HCR during Aug (SJD,JGJ). Other concentrations included 34 at Hansen Lagoon on 10 Aug (JGJ,JS) and 32 at Nebraska City on 13 Sep (LF,CF). A single remained at BOL until 8 Nov (BFH,JS,MB), the latest ever recorded in the state. Previous latest was 26 Oct.

Snowy Egret: Furthest n and w was a single at CLNWR on 25 Aug (JS). High counts were 14 at HCR 29 Aug (JGJ) and 10 at the Rowe Sanctuary 1 Sep (LR,RH). Latest were 4 at BOL 15 Oct (JS), 2nd latest ever.

Little Blue Heron: Thirteen were reported, all from the se and sc. High count was 8 at Nebraska City 22 Aug (LF,CF). Furthest w were singles at FL 2-10 Aug (LR,RH) and HCR 4-14 Aug (SJD).

Cattle Egret: Reports were few, best counts 35 at Nebraska City on 25 Aug (LF,CF) and 31 e of Lincoln 13 Oct (JS), the latter also the latest.

Green Heron: Good high counts for this secretive species included 6 at the OPPD Wetlands on 14 Aug (JS) and 5 at HCR on 29 Aug (JGJ), the latter a good westerly count.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: High counts were from 2 locales in Phelps Co, both with 9 birds: FL on 31 Aug (LR,RH) and Johnson

Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ). Very late, in fact the 3rd latest ever, was a single at Neale Woods on 13 Nov (JB fide LP,BP).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: One would have been good, but 3 imms at the OPPD Wetlands on 14 Aug (SD,JS) was very good. In the RWB, where the species is nearly regular in late summer/early fall, a single was at Hansen Lagoon 10 Aug (JGJ,JS).

White-faced Ibis: High count was 24 at CLNWR on 2 Aug (MF). Away from CLNWR there were only 4 reports of single imms cautiously identified only as *Plegadis* sp. Most easterly was a single at Hansen Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ).

Turkey Vulture: High counts for this DNA-designated stork (Turkey Stork?) were 66 at Valentine 30 Aug (JGJ) and 30 at Gering 15 Sep (AK).

Roseate Spoonbill: Certainly one of the top finds of the season, and possibly the year, was an imm which roosted in Iowa but was observed flying into NE airspace on two occasions, 5 and 14 Aug (*SJD,*WRS). It is the 3rd NE record.

Tundra Swan: This species may have been found in unprecedented numbers this fall. Five reports totalling 10 birds were received, including westerly reports of singles at LM 1 Nov (SJD) and NPNWR 22 Nov (SJD). In the e, a single was 7 mi s of Auburn 4 Nov (LF,CF), 2 were at L Babcock 15-22 Nov (JGJ,MB), and 5 likely different birds were also at L Babcock 27 Nov (JS).

Trumpeter Swan: Numerous pairs and small groups were noted in the Sandhills during Aug. Otherwise, only the LM area hosted birds, up to 7 in Nov (SJD,JS).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Reports were disappointing. High count was only 100, at Pawnee L on 14 Oct (LE). Westerly reports include a single at NPNWR on 22 Nov (SD), another loner at the Gering SL on 23 Nov (SJD), and 8 at NPNWR 29 Nov (SJD).

Snow Goose: A single at FL 14 Aug (SJD) may have summered. Reported high count was 1075 at NPNWR 9 Nov (SJD). DeSoto NWR likely hosted larger numbers, but no estimates were received.

Ross's Goose: (yes, this is the new spelling! Yuk!) Excellent fall counts were 88 at NPNWR on 9 Nov (SJD), 13 at Keystone L 2 Nov (SJD), and 6 at L North 22 Nov (JS).

Canada Goose: High count was 17,785 at NPNWR 25 Nov (LK).

Wood Duck: High count was 117 at NPNWR 30 Oct (LK). Quite late were 3 there on 25 Nov (LK).

Green-winged Teal: High counts were 130 at NPNWR 17 Sep (LK) and 200 at Sutherland Res on 24 Nov (SJD). A few linger into Dec and beyond.

American Black Duck: No reports were received.

Mallard: High counts were 73,792 at NPNWR on 25 Nov (LK) and 50,000 at Sutherland Res on 24 Nov (SD,JS).

Northern Pintail: High counts include 80 at CLNWR 11 Sep (MF) and 200 at FL 14 Aug (LR,RH), the latter rather early for such a southerly locale.

Blue-winged Teal: High counts included 1700 at Sinninger Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ) and 800 at NPNWR 1 Sep (SJD). Quite late were 3 at Cunningham L 5 Nov (JGJ).

Cinnamon Teal: A single was reported from CLNWR on 11 Sep (MF).

Northern Shoveler: An excellent high count was 1500 at the Gering SL 26 Oct (SJD); no other count came close. Latest was a single at the Scottsbluff SL on 29 Nov (SJD).

Gadwall: High counts were 500 at BOL 21 Oct (BP,LP) and 310 at NPNWR on 9 Nov (SJD).

American Wigeon: Excellent high counts included 820 at NPNWR on 15 Oct (LK) and 292 at CLNWR 11 Sep (MF). Last were 2 at Wolf L 28 Nov (TH).

Canvasback: High counts were unimpressive, best only 67 at NPNWR on

9 Nov (LK). A single at Johnson Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ) was rather far south for so early in fall.

Redhead: The 2 at FL 2 Aug (LR,RH) may have been early fall migrants or may have summered there. High counts were 890 at NPNWR 12 Nov (LK) and 689 at CLNWR 11 Sep (MF). Last were 15 at Gavin's Point Dam 29 Nov (DH).

Ring-necked Duck: High count was 149 at NPNWR 15 Oct (LK). Latest was a single at Cunningham L 29 Nov (JGJ).

Greater Scaup: This species is rarer in fall than in spring. It was, however, well reported this fall, mostly from the w. Earliest was 1 at the Gering SL 26 Oct (SJD). Other reports from the w included up to 9 at NPNWR 1-9 Nov (SJD), 1-2 at L Ogallala 1-9 Nov (SJD), 2 at the Scottsbluff SL 9 Nov (SJD), 1 at Oliver Res on 8 Nov (SJD), 1 at NPNWR 22-23 Nov (SJD), and 10 were likely settling in for the winter in the North Platte River below Keystone Dam (SJD). The only reports from the east were 3 at Wehrspann L on 14 Nov (JGJ) and 2 at Swan Creek Res #2 15 Nov (JGJ).

Lesser Scaup: Early, and possibly molt migrants, were 2 at the North Platte SL 4 Aug (SJD). High count was 700 at NPNWR 9 Nov (SJD).

Oldsquaw: Five singles were reported, all imm/female types. Reports were from L Babcock 9 Nov (JGJ), Keystone L 16 Nov (SJD), LM 24 Nov (SJD,JS), Sutherland Res 24 Nov (JS,SJD), and NPNWR 22-29 Nov (SJD,JS).

Black Scoter: The only report was a group of 3, one of which was a male, at Pawnee L on 13 Nov (JS).

Surf Scoter: The only report was of 3 at NPNWR 27 Oct (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: Bucking the trend of previous Falls, this scoter was the species most often found this year. In all, 8 reports totaling 11 birds were received. Earliest was a single at Zorinsky L 25 Oct (JGJ) followed by a male at Pawnee L 28 Oct (JS). High count was a group of 3 female/imms at BOL on 3 Nov (JGJ). All other observations were of singles and include reports from BOL on 10 Nov (JS), L Ogallala 15-16 Nov (SJD), North Platte River below Keystone Dam 15-16 Nov (SJD), Zorinsky L 22 Nov (JGJ), LM 24 Nov (SJD), L Ogallala 24 Nov (SJD), and Knox Co 26-30 Nov (MB,EB).

Common Goldeneye: Quite early were 28 at CLNWR on 11 Sep (MF); typically arrival is usually noted during the latter portion of Oct, as was the case this year. High count was 1300 at Sutherland Res on 24 Nov (SJD,JS).

Bufflehead: Earliest was a single at the Scottsbluff SL 21 Sep (SJD,DCE). High counts were 231 at NPNWR on 9 Nov (SJD) and 112 at NPNWR on 15 Oct (LK).

Hooded Merganser: Quite early and far west was a male at NPNWR 2 Aug (WRS,JGJ,JS,SJD), as well as a female there on 15 Aug (SJD). A fabulous high count of 191 was recorded at NPNWR 9 Nov (SJD,JS).

Common Merganser: The male which was forced to summer 0.5 mi w of Wood Duck due to injury was observed until 4 Nov (DH). Likely molt migrants were the 88 at NPNWR 2 Aug (JS,SJD,WRS,JGJ). Numbers gradually rose throughout the period there, culminating with 12,107 on 25 Nov (LK), the season's high count.

Red-breasted Merganser: This merganser is rarer and more difficult to identify in Fall than in Spring. It often occurs in drab female/imm plumage types in late Oct and early Nov before the main movement of Common Mergansers. Earliest were 4 at BOL 1 Nov (JS). Outstanding high counts included 47 at Summit Res 9 Nov (JGJ) and 28 at NPNWR the same day (SJD,JS), the latter a good westerly count. Last were 6 at NPNWR 19 Nov (SJD).

Ruddy Duck: High count was 158 at NPNWR 15 Oct (LK). Latest were 19 at Keystone L on 24 Nov (SJD).

Osprey: This was one of several raptors which were well reported

this Fall. In all, 38 birds were found across the state. High single locale counts were 6 at BOL 5 Sep (LE) and 3 at LM 4 Oct (SJD,WRS,JS,JGJ).

Mississippi Kite: It is exciting that breeding was once again observed at Ogallala, and yet puzzling why birds and breeding activity have not been noted elsewhere in the state, especially to the south (Republican Drainage?). Are kites being overlooked elsewhere? Would birders (including myself) drive through Ogallala without seeing the kites soaring over the city if they did not know they were there? This year a nest with two fully-grown young and 5 adults were observed on 3 Aug (SJD). Ads feeding single juvs were observed 15 Aug (SJD) and 25 Aug (JS).

Bald Eagle: Summer and early Fall reports are becoming routine as the species continues to do well. At least 3 birds were present at BOL 29 Aug-21 Sep (JGJ,JS). Season's high count, as well as an excellent count for the locale, was 21 at L Babcock on 27 Nov (JS).

Northern Harrier: An excellent high count was of 54 migrating along the n shore of LM on 12 Oct (SJD).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Reports were received from 11 counties, totaling 18 birds. High single locale count was 4 at Camp Wakonda, Bellevue, 13 Oct (BP,LP).

Cooper's Hawk: Reports were received from 17 counties, totaling 20 birds, although no more than 2 were found at a single locale on a single day.

Northern Goshawk: An imm was observed at Wildcat Hills NC 9 Nov (SJD,JS). Identification details were provided.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Interesting was a single heard in extreme ne Otoe Co 17 Aug (MB); no breeding locations are known other than at Fontenelle Forest, some 45 miles to the north.

Broad-winged Hawk: Six were observed in the period 4-27 Sep. Rather far w was an imm (details provided) at Halsey 27 Sep (JS,BH). Other reports were of singles at FF 4 Sep (BP,LP), Cass Co 15 Sep (GW), and Camp Wakonda 29 Sep (LP,BP), and 2 along Bellevue Boulevard, Bellevue, 19 Sep (BP,LP).

Swainson's Hawk: No large groups were observed. Later birds were 3 in Lancaster Co 10 (JS), 1 in Kearney Co 11 Oct (LR,RH), and 2 at Camp Wakonda 13 Oct (LP,BP).

Red-tailed Hawk: High counts include 38 at FF 21 Oct (BP,LP) and 14 in Otoe Co 4 Nov (LF,CF).

Ferruginous Hawk: At least 29 were observed in the Panhandle during the period SJD,DH,MB,JS,MF). Furthest e were a single in Brown Co on 27 Sep (LR,RH) and an injured imm picked up in a pasture 6 mi w of Osceola; the latter bird was being rehabilitated at the Raptor Recovery Center near Elmwood operated by Betsy Hancock (*Omaha World Herald*, 17 Sep 1997; JS).

Rough-legged Hawk: Earliest were singles at Keystone L 4 Oct (SJD) and in Dixon Co 10 Oct (JJ). High count was 5 in Banner Co both 1 and 22 Nov (SJD).

Golden Eagle: Birds found in the eastern half of the state were singles 1 mi e of BOL 17 Oct (JS) and at FF 21 Oct (BP,LP).

American Kestrel: Migration may have peaked on 21 Sep when 74 were found in Scotts Bluff Co (SJD,DCE) and half the state away 30 in Franklin Co (LR,RH).

Merlin: It was a magical Fall for this species, as some 28 birds were recorded statewide 3 Aug-28 Nov. Identification of subspecies is possible and such information is appreciated. Three birds were identified as *richardsoni*: singles at FL on 14 Aug (SJD), Whitney L 23 Aug (SJD,JS), and Oliver Res 1 Sep (SJD). Birds identified as "dark" (either *columbarius* or less likely *suckleyi*) included singles at FL on 13 Sep (LR,RH) and at Keystone L 12 Oct (SJD). Finally, a single at BOL 22 Sep (JGJ) was identified as

columbarius.

Peregrine Falcon: Eight singles were observed in 7 counties. Earliest was one at Wood Duck on 4 Sep (DH) and last was one at LM 12 Oct (SJD).

Prairie Falcon: Ten were found from Halsey westward. Additional easterly reports were of singles in Platte Co on 27 Nov (JS) and another at Neale Woods 13 Oct (JB fide BP,LP).

Gray Partridge: The only report was of one 5 mi e of Creighton 29 Jul (MB); the observer noted no others for the second half of 1997.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports were routine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Unexpected were 5-6 at Pintail Marsh 21 Oct (JGJ,WRS). These may have moved southward from their breeding location, possibly a family group.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were routine.

Wild Turkey: Reports were routine.

Northern Bobwhite: None were reported from the Panhandle, suggestive of minor range retraction. Otherwise, reports were routine.

King Rail: A single was heard at the OPPD Wetlands 5 Aug (SJD,WRS) and 16 Aug (JS); it was actually seen on 14 Aug (SJD).

Virginia Rail: This species is found locally late in Fall into Winter. Up to 6 were at Clear Creek Marshes 15 Nov (SJD), a suspected wintering location, a single was below Kingsley Dam 16 Nov (SJD), 2 were at Facus Springs 23 Nov (SJD), and a single was at Oliver Res 29 Nov (SJD).

Sora: High counts were 6 at both FL 13 Sep (LR,RH) and Spikerush Basin 22 Sep (JGJ). Latest were 2 at FL 5 Oct (LR,RH).

Common Moorhen: An ad was found at the OPPD Wetland on 5 Aug (JS). An ad and a juv were observed on and off 10 Aug-13 Sep (JS,JGJ,SJD,MB).

American Coot: High counts were 2734 at CLNWR 11 Sep (MF), 2984 at NPNWR 15 Oct (LK), and 2000 at BOL 21 Oct (BP,LP). Last were 15 at HCR 30 Nov (LR,RH).

Sandhill Crane: Intriguing was a single at FL on 31 Aug (LR,RH). All other reports were during Oct and include high counts of 3000 s of Gering 13 Oct (AK) and 270 in Buffalo Co the same day (LR,RH).

Black-bellied Plover: The only reports were from L North were 1-3 were observed 1 Sep-22 Sep (JGJ), and L Babcock, where one was reported 23 Oct (MB). Very late was a juv at L North 9 Nov (JGJ), second latest ever.

American Golden-Plover: Rare in the w, 2 juvs were near Bayard 13 Sep (SJD) and a single was at the Milburn Diversion Dam, Blaine Co, 26 Sep (LR,RH). High count and latest were 29 at the Tekamah SL 28 Sep (JGJ).

Semipalmated Plover: No more than 3 were found at a single locale. Latest were 2 on 4 Oct at both HCR (LF,CF) and L Ogallala (SJD).

Piping Plover: High count and latest were 4 at L North on 17 Aug (JGJ,GJ).

Killdeer: High count was 110 in Scotts Bluff Co on 17 Sep (NK).

American Avocet: High counts were 38 at the North Platte SL 28 Sep (JS) and 27 at HCR 29 Aug (JGJ). Tying the latest record ever were 2 at Oliver Res on 1 Nov (SJD), and setting a new record was a single at Facus Springs 2 Nov (SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: High counts were 30 at Pawnee L on 25 Oct (JGJ) and 20+ 2 mi w of Beemer on 7 Sep (DH). Latest were 2 at NPNWR on 9 Nov (AK,SJD,JS).

Lesser Yellowlegs: High counts were 124 at Hansen Lagoon 10 Aug (JGJ), 117 at Sinniger Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ), and 115 s of Bayard on 13 Sep (SJD). Latest were 2 birds 7 mi s of Auburn (LF,CF) and 1 at LM 23 Nov (SJD); details were provided for latter, the latest ever.

Solitary Sandpiper: High count was 3 at Calamus Res on 7 Sep

(LR,RH). Latest was a single at HCR 4 Oct (LF,CF).

Willet: In the w, 3 were at CLNWR 16 Aug (BFH) and a single was at NPNWR 21 Sep (SJD,DCE). Rare in the e in Fall, 2 were at FL on 31 Aug (DH).

Spotted Sandpiper: Reports were routine.

Upland Sandpiper: High counts were 12 at L Ogallala 3 Aug (SJD,WRS,JS,JGJ) and 4 in sw Dixon Co 16 Aug (JJ). Latest was a single in sw Dixon Co on 6 Sep (JJ).

Long-billed Curlew: High counts included 52 at NPNWR 2 Aug (SJD,JS,WRS,JGJ) and 37 at CLNWR 16 Aug (BFH). Rare in the e, a single was heard at FL on 13 Sep (LR,RH).

Marbled Godwit: The only reports from the w included singles at Swan L, Arthur Co, on 30 Aug (JGJ) and at NPNWR 6 Sep (SJD). Rare in the e in Fall, singles were at FL on 31 Aug (DH) and Sinninger Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ).

Ruddy Turnstone: No reports were received.

Sanderling: High counts included 45 at NPNWR 6 Sep (LK) and 11 at LM 4 Oct (SJD,JS,WRS,JGJ). Only 12 other birds were reported, including a juv/first-winter at L North on 9 Nov (JGJ), second latest ever.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High counts were 60 2 mi w of Beemer 7 Sep (DH), 52 at Sinninger Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ), and 36 in Cuming Co 28 Sep (MB). Much rarer in the w, 3 were at the Scottsbluff SL on 21 Sep (SJD,DCE). Latest was a single at BOL on 30 Sep (LE).

Western Sandpiper: Even though this species is most common in Fall, only 7 reports totaling 15 birds were received. High count was 9 at BOL 7 Sep (LE), and latest was a single at the Scottsbluff SL 5 Oct (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: High counts included 137 at Sinninger Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ) and 35 at FL 17 Aug (LR,RH). Latest was a single at Cunningham L on 4 Nov (JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Two reports were received without details, 2 birds at FL on 2 Aug and a single at Calamus Res on 7 Sep. There are no documented Fall records for this species in NE; its Fall migration pathway is off the Atlantic Coast.

Baird's Sandpiper: High counts were 50 2 mi w of Beemer 7 Sep (DH) and 45 at CLNWR 13 Oct (MF). Very late, but not unprecedented, was a single at L North 9 Nov (JGJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: High counts were 220 at Hansen Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ), 205 at Hansen Lagoon 10 Aug (JGJ), and 100 at HCR 14 Aug (SJD). Latest were 4 at L North on 9 Nov (JGJ).

Dunlin: Very rare in the w, a single was at Sutherland Res 16 Nov (SJD), third latest ever even for this late migrant.

Stilt Sandpiper: High counts were 144 at Sinninger Lagoon 11 Sep (JGJ,GJ), 112 at Sinninger Lagoon 10 Aug (JGJ), and 78 at Hansen Lagoon 10 Aug (JGJ). Latest were 3 birds 2 mi w of Beemer 18 Oct (DH) and 2 in Loup Co the same day (MB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Overall 57 birds were reported, the majority in a single flock of 31 at the Tekamah SL 6 Sep (JGJ). Latest was a single injured bird at Jack Sinn Marsh 10 Sep (JH,EH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: All reports were of juvs (details provided on all) and follow: a single was at Cunningham L 19 Aug (JGJ), up to 3 were at Hansen Lagoon 25-29 Aug (JS,JGJ), 2 and 4 were at Sinninger Lagoon on the respective dates of 29 Aug and 11 Sep (JGJ,GJ), and 2 were at HCR 29 Aug (JGJ). If approved by the Grant County Records Committee, 2 in e Grant Co on 30 Aug (JGJ) may become the county's first record for the species.

Long-billed Dowitcher: High counts included 107 at Bean Soup L, Arthur Co, 30 Aug (JGJ) and 93 at Keystone L 12 Oct (SJD). Latest was a single juv at Pawnee L 25 Oct (JGJ).

Common Snipe: High counts were 13 at Hansen Lagoon 29 Aug (JGJ) and

10 at Sinninger Lagoon 11 Sep (JGJ,GJ). Latest reported away from a known winter area was a single at FF 18 Nov (JH,EH).

Wilson's Phalarope: High counts were 2000 at CLNWR 24 Aug (JS) and 500 near Antioch the same day (JS).

Red-necked Phalarope: None were reported e of North Platte. High counts were 14 at the Scottsbluff SL 6 Sep (JS,SJD), 8 at Antioch 24 Aug (JS), and 8 at NPNWR 6 Sep (SJD). Latest were 4 at the Scottsbluff SL 21 Sep (SJD).

Jaeger sp.: Poor light and a brief look made identification of a jaeger at Pawnee L on 22 Sep (JS) impossible. Another jaeger briefly seen at LM on 12 Oct (SJD) was thought likely to be a Pomarine Jaeger, but was not conclusively identified.

Pomarine Jaeger: A juv barred or intermediate morph was observed at Pawnee L 15-19 Nov (*JGJ,*BP,*LP,*JS). If accepted by NOURC, this will be NE's 5th record.

Parasitic Jaeger: For the second consecutive year, a certain (certifiable?) group of birders took "pelagic" boat trips on LM 4-5 Oct (JS,SJD,WRS,JGJ) and a juv of this species identified on 5 Oct was the reward. Identification was concluded, albeit with some logistical difficulty since the jaeger was able to move much faster than the boat, which topped out at 25-30 mph. If accepted by NOURC, this will be only the second record for NE.

Franklin's Gull: Excellent high counts were 35,000 at Sutherland Res 29 Aug (JGJ) and 30,000 at HCR 11 Sep (JGJ,GJ). Latest were singles at both Pawnee L (LR,RH) and Olive Creek L (JGJ), both on 9 Nov. In addition, a pale- or frosty-mantled Franklin's was observed at LM on 14 Sep (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Earliest was a single at BOL 30 Sep (JS) followed by a lone imm at LM on 4 Oct (WRS,JS,JGJ,SJD). Excellent high counts were 300 at Sutherland Res on 10 Nov (JS) and 250 at HCR on 3 Nov (JGJ).

Little Gull: A juv at NPNWR on 6 Sep (*SJD,*WRS,JS) and a probable second-winter at Summit Res 19 Oct (*JGJ) will likely furnish the state's 4th and 5th records.

Ring-billed Gull: High counts were 3000 at NPNWR 9 Nov (SJD,JS) and 1000+ at HCR 4 Sep (LE).

California Gull: Reports from the e third where the species is still casual included a second-winter bird at BOL on 9 Nov (JGJ) and a single at Willow Creek L on 22 Nov (JS). An adult at HCR on 4 Aug was also rather far e. At Sutherland Res, an adult was found 14 Aug (SJD) and 1-2 ads were there 2-16 Nov (JGJ,SJD). High count at LM was 105 on 4 Oct (SJD,WRS,JS,JGJ).

Herring Gull: Early were 2 at HCR on 4 Sep (LF,CF) and the 14 at LM on 4 Oct (SJD,JS,WRS, JGJ) was a high count for early fall.

Thayer's Gull: A single adult was well studied at Keystone L on 4 Oct (*SJD,*JS,*WRS,JGJ). Other reports include a first-winter at L Ogallala on 10 Nov (JS), another first-winter at Yankee Hill L on 16 Nov (JGJ), and a third-winter was at NPNWR on 22-29 Nov (SJD,JS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: None had been reported in 1997 until 29-30 Nov when a second-winter bird was found at BOL (*JGJ,*JS,*BP,*LP).

Great Black-backed Gull: About the 11th for NE and the first recorded at Gavin's Point Dam, in Cedar Co, was a first-winter bird there 2 Nov (*MB).

Sabine's Gull: Two Falls ago, it was exciting when a single bird was reported. Last Fall it was amazing when 7 birds were reported. Duplicate sightings of single birds makes pinpointing the exact number difficult, but this year no fewer than 24 and possibly over 30 different birds were found. No doubt subsequent sightings will lack a certain amount of luster. All sightings this year were in

the period 6 Sep-15 Oct. At NPNWR, 2 juvs were found 6 Sep (*SJD,WRS,JS) and 2 ads and 7 juvs were there 21 Sep (*SJD,DCE). At LM, single juvs were observed on 8 Sep (JS,WRS) and 5 Oct (SJD,WRS,JS,JGJ), and 5 juvs were there 13-14 Sep (*SJD). At Keystone L, 2 juvs were noted 12 Oct (*SJD). At BOL, 2 were present 21-22 Sep (JS,JGJ) 6 were there 2 Oct (JGJ,WRS), and 1-3 until 15 Oct (JS,BP,LP). Finally, single juvs were at Oliver Res on 13 Sep (*SJD) and Whitney L on 14 Sep (DH,MB).

Caspian Tern: High count was a mere 2 at LM 12-14 Sep (SJD). Latest was a single at BOL on 20 Sep (JS).

Common Tern: A single was at NPNWR 6 Sep (JS) and as many as 7 were at NPNWR 13-21 Sep (SJD,DCE,JGJ). An imm was at Gavin's Point Dam, in Cedar Co, 13 Oct (MB). Details were provided for two unprecedented late reports, singles at Conestoga L on 25 Oct (JS) and at NPNWR on 1 Nov (SJD).

Forster's Tern: High count was 63 at LM on 3 Aug (SJD) and latest were 2 at BOL 15 Oct (JS).

Least Tern: High count was 6 at LM on 3 Aug (SJD) and latest were 2 at Offutt Base L on 2 Sep (BP,LP).

Black Tern: High count was 275 at FL on 14 Aug (SJD).

Rock Dove: Reports were routine.

Mourning Dove: Best count was 450 in Buffalo Co 7 Sep (LR,RH).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: A single appeared at a feeder in Shelton 29 Nov, but was not identified as this species until about 6 Dec (*RH,LR). It was still present through at least 2 Jan (WRS). Acceptance by the NOURC and addition to the State List depends upon whether the bird is considered to be wild and a pioneering representative of the rapidly expanding population radiating from Florida, or merely a released or escaped cage-bird.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last was one at Stagecoach L 9 Sep (LE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last was one at FF 30 Sep (BP,LP).

Barn Owl: Five were roosting in a willow thicket at CLNWR 8 Sep (JS,WRS). Last of the summering birds at Clear Creek Marshes was noted 5 Oct (SJD), a rather late date.

Eastern Screech-Owl: A good count was 9 at NPNWR 13 Sep (DH).

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine.

Burrowing Owl: "Twenty or more" were noted in Cherry Co 16 Sep (RG), an excellent count. An injured imm at the University of Nebraska-Kearney campus on the rather late date 13 Oct was turned over to the Raptor Recovery Center (fide RH).

Barred Owl: Scattered sightings from the w edge of the range were at Wilderness Park, Lincoln (LE), 3 in Stanton Co on the Elkhorn River at highway 24 on 16 Oct (DH), and, possibly the furthest nw report in recent years, in Brown Co 17 Sep (RG).

Long-eared Owl: At a date suggestive of breeding nearby, 3 were flushed from a willow thicket (with Barn Owls!) at CLNWR 25 Aug (JS) and again 6 Sep (JS,WRS). No nests were in this thicket, however.

Short-eared Owl: 1-3 were noted at CLNWR 8-20 Oct (MF). This is a summering location. The only other report was of one in Loup Co 17 Oct (MB).

Common Nighthawk: Best counts of migrants were 150 in Dixon Co 6 Sep (JJ) and 100 in Dawes Co 24 Aug (AK). Last were 24 at Bellevue 6 Oct (BP,LP), a rather late date.

Common Poorwill: Last of the reports, all from the Panhandle, were from Sioux Co 13-14 Sep (DH,MB).

Chuck-will's-widow: None were reported. These birds are rarely reported after Jun; there are only 3 such reports, in Jul-Aug.

Whip-poor-will: None were reported, more of a surprise than in the case of Chuck-will's-widow.

Chimney Swift: Now reported essentially statewide from towns, last

were in the e: 33 at Bellevue (LP,BP) and 3 at Nebraska City (LF,CF), all on 13 Oct. Best count was 100 at Bellevue 24 Sep (BP,LP).

White-throated Swift: Last were 4 at Scotts Bluff NM 1 Sep (SJD). The only other report was of 3 in Sowbelly Canyon 24 Aug (SJD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Good numbers were reported in the e, with the westernmost report 5 females/imms at Kearney 9 Sep (George Brown fide LR,RH). A total of about 36 were noted, best count 6 at FF 29 Aug (BP,LP). Last was on 27 Sep, when one passed through Bellevue (BP,LP). Last of the ad males was at Winside 22 Aug (NB).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: None were reported, but see *Selasphorus* Hummingbird sp., below.

Rufous Hummingbird: The only bird identified to species was a female at Bushnell 11 Aug (*BFH). See *Selasphorus* Hummingbird sp., below.

***Selasphorus* Hummingbird sp.:** Eight were reported unidentified to species, either due to the apparently remote possibility of Allen's Hummingbird, or the more likely problem of separation of Rufous and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. These 8 birds were seen in the period 1 Aug-6 Sep, all at Bushnell or Kimball (SJD,BFH,JS). The latest, a female on 6 Sep, was rather late.

Belted Kingfisher: Reports were routine.

Lewis's Woodpecker: Only 2 were reported, both at the traditional Deadhorse Burn site behind Chadron SP, 23 Aug (SJD,JS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Last of few reported away from the e were 11 in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (NK), a rather early departure date.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Westernmost were singles at Roscoe and Sutherland Res 16 Nov (SJD); the LM area is about the westerly limit for this species in the North Platte Valley.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only reports were of singles at FF 30 Sep (BP,LP) and another at Hormel Park, Fremont, 23 Oct (MB).

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Northern Flicker: Best count was 30 at Calamus Res 7 Sep (LR,RH). "Red-shafted" Flickers were first noted ne of Elsmere, in Brown Co, 27 Sep (LR,RH) and as far e as Wood Duck 30 Oct (DH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Earliest was 1 at Dead Timber 13 Aug (DH), best count 6 at FF 29 Aug (BP,LP), and last was 1 at ADF 23 Sep (LF,CF). Most reports are from the e, but there is a low-density movement through the Panhandle also, with 4 reports this Fall, from 23 Aug at Carter Canyon (SJD) through 1 Sep at Oliver Res (SJD).

Western Wood-Pewee: The only reports were from the summer range; last were 2 at NPNWR 13 Sep (DH,MB). One-two pewees unidentified to species were at Oliver Res 12-13 Sep (JGJ,SJD).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: All reports were from the e; last was at ADF 25 Sep (LF,CF).

***Empidonax* sp.:** Identification of silent fall *empidonax* flycatchers is not impossible, but very difficult; it requires some details on structural and soft-part characters [overall shape (big- or small-headed), bill shape, size and color (especially underneath), eye-ring shape and color, primary extension, etc.]. In general, plumage colors of *empidonax* flycatchers are unreliable indicators of identity when unaccompanied by structural information. Individuals reported as unidentified to species were 4 at Wolf L 31 Aug, thought to be Least (TH), and 2 at Oliver Res 21 Sep (SJD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One was reported from Dead Timber 16 Aug (DH); the bird had a yellow throat, and while likely this species, other species, especially juvs, may also have yellow throats in fall.

Acadian Flycatcher: None were reported.

Alder Flycatcher: None were reported.

Willow Flycatcher: Birds reported as Willows were 3 at BOL 14 Aug (LE), probably summering birds, and 1 at Agate 7 Sep (JS,WRS). The latter bird was identified by calls.

Least Flycatcher: All reports were presumed migrants, as none were reported from the n and w, where breeding may occur. Earliest was one at Funk Lagoon 31 Aug (LR,RH) and last one at ADF 10 Sep (LF,CF).

Hammond's Flycatcher: As observers gain more experience with fall *empidonax* flycatchers and spend sufficient time in the field, identification becomes a little easier, especially in the case of Hammond's Flycatcher, which stands out in that it is the only likely species in NE which molts prior to Fall migration and so is in bright, colorful plumage at this time, as well as having a tiny bill. Evidence has suggested that Hammond's Flycatcher is a regular Fall migrant in NE (e.g. banding studies at Hays, Kansas) and this Fall, this was found to be likely the case. Photographs and documentations were received of 4 birds. One was photographed and described at Blue Creek on the Crescent Lake NWR-Oshkosh road 8 Sep (*WRS,*JS); one was described se of Sidney 12 Sep (JGJ); a third was described at Winter's Creek L 21 Sep (*SJD); and a 4th was described at Oliver Res 21 Sep (*SJD). These reports, if accepted by the NOURC, become the 3rd-6th Fall records for NE, all in the period 2-21 Sep; the easternmost is from Adams Co 2 Sep 1995.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The only report was of a migrant at Agate 7 Sep (WRS,JS); it was identified by structural characters as well as its yellow throat. There are few Fall reports purporting to be this species, the 5 available all from the Panhandle in the period 9 Aug-10 Sep.

Eastern Phoebe: Reports were all from the e, last at ADF 21 Oct (LF,CF).

Say's Phoebe: Easterly reports were of one at Willow L, Brown Co, 27 Sep (LR,RH), also the last for the season, and one in sw Dixon Co 14 Aug (JJ), the latter probably part of the outlying summering population there.

Great Crested Flycatcher: The population in ne NW was represented by 3 reports, the last 30 Aug at Sowbelly Canyon (DH). Has anyone seen this species in the central Niobrara Valley (w of Valentine?) Last of the easterly reports was one at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 9 Sep (LE).

Cassin's Kingbird: Eighteen were reported, all from the w Panhandle. Last was one at Stage Hill, Scotts Bluff Co, 5 Oct (AK), the latest ever. Late yellow-bellied kingbirds in the Panhandle are mostly Cassin's Kingbirds (Dick Rosche).

Eastern Kingbird: Best count was an outstanding 180 at Wood Duck 22 Aug (DH), although "hundreds" were in the w RWB 17 Aug (LR,RH). Previous peak counts were also in late Aug. Last was one in Pierce Co 21 Sep (MB).

Western Kingbird: Best count was 48 s of Gering 27 Aug (AK), although "hundreds" were in the w RWB 17 Aug (LR,RH). Last was one in Cherry Co 16 Sep (RG).

Horned Lark: Best counts were 1520 in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Oct (SJD) and 1000 near Central City 15 Nov (DH).

Purple Martin: Of interest was a report of 5 at O'Neill 11 Aug (DH,MB); this is approaching the w edge of the range in the Niobrara Valley, currently known to be Ainsworth. Last were 6 at Nebraska City 17 Aug (LF,CF).

Tree Swallow: Best count was a moderate 75 in se Otoe Co 22 Oct (LF,CF), also the last.

Violet-green Swallow: Best count was 30 in Carter Canyon 2 Aug (AK), and last, 2 at Sowbelly Canyon 24 Aug (SJD), a rather late date. Record latest is 29 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Best count was 1400 in se Otoe Co 25 Aug (LF,CF) and last, 5 there 18 Oct (LF,CF).

Bank Swallow: Best count was 2000 at L North 10 Aug (JGJ). Last were 10 in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (NK).

Cliff Swallow: Best count was 4000 e of FL 10 Aug, including one with white outer primaries (LR,RH), Bonaparte's Swallow? This a record high count for NE. Last was one in Douglas Co 28 Sep (MB).

Barn Swallow: Best count was 1000 at Wood Duck 27 Sep (DH), and last singles at Nebraska City 22 Oct (LF,CF) and at L Babcock 23 Oct (MB).

Steller's Jay: One was briefly seen "on two mornings this fall" in Carter Canyon, where two wintered last year (Stella Bigsby fide AK).

Blue Jay: An excellent count was 440 in Red Cloud and Franklin Cos 14 Sep (LR,RH); this is a record high count.

Pinyon Jay: The only reports were from Sioux Co 13 Sep (MB) and of 24 near Pants Butte 29 Nov (SJD).

Black-billed Magpie: A southeasterly report for summer was one at Wood Duck 8 Aug (DH); this is at the se edge of the breeding range. Fall wanderers to the se were one at BOL 30 Nov (BP,LP) and 2 in w Webster Co 5 Oct (LR,RH).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Strongly suggestive of a fall influx was a count of 168 in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep; the observer (NK) had made regular counts through the summer, when the best count was only 8 on 20 Aug. This is valuable data and shows the importance of regular counts of common species.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This species was widely reported in small numbers (best count 4), beginning with one in a Bellevue yard as early as 12 Aug (KCR).

White-breasted Nuthatch: First to arrive at a non-breeding location was one e of Scottsbluff 11 Oct (AK). One in the same county 13 Sep (MB) may have summered; breeding is not known there, although there are a few recent summer reports. Time to get out the screech-owl tape recorders to record these nuthatches and determine whether they are western from the Pine Ridge or eastern from the Platte Valley.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The erratic nature of this species' wanderings was indicated by its absence at the feeders at WHNC 29 Nov (SJD), in contrast to this time last year.

Brown Creeper: Reports were of Fall migrants; first was in Cass Co 27 Oct (GW) and furthest w were 3 at Box Butte Res 14 Sep (JGJ). Best count was 5 at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 26 Nov (LE).

Rock Wren: Reports were routine.

Carolina Wren: Reports were from the expected range in the e, except for a Fall wanderer rather far to the w near Gibbon 6 Sep (LR,RH).

House Wren: Last was one at ADF 20 Oct (LF,CF), a rather late date; latest on record is 22 Oct.

Winter Wren: All reports but one were from the lower Missouri Valley; earliest was at Neale Woods 7 Oct (JB). The other was westerly near Gibbon on 29 Sep (LR,RH). There are only about 20-25 reports from c and w in fall. Best count was 4 at FF 10 Oct (JS).

Sedge Wren: Several were reported during Aug, including singing birds in suitable breeding habitat; best count was 12 at Nine-mile Prairie, Lancaster Co (JH,EH) and westerly were singles near Gibbon 1 Aug (LR,RH) and at FL 2 Aug (LR,RH). Last to depart was one at Cunningham L 18 Oct (BP,LP).

Marsh Wren: At a southerly location for the date was one in Otoe Co 6 Aug (MB); if breeding, this would be the southernmost record

ever. Last were 2 at Oliver Res 29 Nov (SJD); these wrens may winter if open water is present; 3 were still at CLNWR as late as 20 Nov (MF).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First was one in Saunders Co 24 Oct (MB) and best count 10 at Johnson Res 23 Nov (LR,RH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Earliest was one at Agate 7 Sep (JS,WRS), best count 16 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Sep (JS), and last was one at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 26 Nov (LE), a rather late date.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apparently not as unusual in the Panhandle as previously thought, although there are still fewer than 10 reports in all, there were no fewer than 4 reports this Fall: a female was described at Chimney Rock Cem (*DH), and 2 were at Stage Hill, Scotts Bluff Co, 1 and 6 Sep (SJD). Two at WHNC 6 Sep (JS) may have been the same birds as those at Stage Hill. Two more were in Long Canyon, Banner Co, 12 Sep (JGJ), a record late date.

Eastern Bluebird: Best count, presumably migrants, was 52 in se Otoe Co 22 Oct (LF,CF). Two at Stage Hill 17 Aug (AK) probably summered. Other Panhandle reports were from Sioux Co 13 Sep (MB), James Ranch, Sioux Co, 13 Oct (SL), and 2 at Oliver Res 27 Oct (SJD), a rather late date for the Panhandle.

Mountain Bluebird: Last to leave the high country were at James Ranch, Sioux Co, 13 Oct (SL), and 3 had appeared in Scotts Bluff Co by 23 Oct (AK).

Townsend's Solitaire: Earliest appearances were made by singles at L Minatare and L Alice and in Sioux Co 13 Sep (DH,MB), and 2 at NNF, Halsey, 28 Sep (LR,RH).

Veery: None were reported.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None were reported.

Swainson's Thrush: Apparently not a good "thrush" year, only about 6 were reported, albeit statewide. First were 2 at Agate 7 Sep (JS,WRS) and last, one at Oliver Res 21 Sep (SJD).

Hermit Thrush: Of interest was a single at Winters Creek L 1 Sep (SJD), one of only 11 Panhandle reports. Panhandle migrants are likely the western race *auduboni*, but the only data to support this is a sight record with details 12 Oct 1996 and a specimen (University of Nebraska State Museum #ZM6670) identified as *auduboni* collected in Lancaster Co 9 Apr 1906, but which closely resembles eastern *faxonii* (WRS,JS). Easterly reports were of about 7 birds in the period 12 (GW)-28 Oct (JS).

Wood Thrush: The few reported were in the se, but one was northwesterly at NNF, Halsey, 15 Sep (RG), also the latest.

American Robin: Best count was 100, made at 2 locations: Dixon Co on 21 Sep (JJ) and s of Gering 4 Nov (AK).

Gray Catbird: Westerly were singles at Winter's Creek L and in Sioux Co 13 Sep (DH,MB) and Oliver Res 1 Sep (SJD). Last was one at FF 7 Oct (BP,LP). Peak migration was indicated by counts of 12 at Wolf L 6 Sep (TH) and 11 at Wood Duck 4 Sep (DH).

Northern Mockingbird: None were reported.

Sage Thrasher: Normal in recent years were reports totalling at most 10 birds from the Panhandle. First were 1-2 in Kimball Co 1-2 Aug (SJD,JS), with up to 3 in the same location through 15 Aug (SJD). These are apparently fall migrants, as this species is on the move by late Jul. Last was one at Buffalo Creek 29 Aug (JH,EH).

Brown Thrasher: Last was rather late at Wolf L 23 Nov (TH).

American Pipit: Migrants were noted in good numbers, best counts 80 in Knox Co 15 Oct (MB) and 44 at LM 4 Oct (SJD). Earliest was one at L Minatare 13 Sep (SJD) and last one there 27 Oct (SJD).

Sprague's Pipit: This tough-to-find bird was noted 15 Oct in a native prairie 3 mi e of Creighton (*MB).

Cedar Waxwing: There are usually a few around in summer, and this year was no exception (GW,NK). Numbers were not noted until Nov,

when the best count of 145 was made at Wolf L (TH).

Northern Shrike: First were in the w, as expected, in Scotts Bluff Co 21 Oct (AK), but most unexpected, as far as Wood Duck the same day (DH). No details were provided, however, for the latter report. Best count was of 3 at Oliver Res 24 Nov, all ads (SJD).

Loggerhead Shrike: Three were reported from the Panhandle, last 2 in Sowbelly Canyon 13 Sep (DH,MB). Two were in Frontier Co 19 Oct (LR,RH), rather late, as latest dates in the Panhandle are in early Oct.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: Last, and an excellent count, were 30 at Calamus Res 7 Sep (LR,RH). Few others were reported.

Blue-headed Vireo: About 6 were reported, all from the e, as expected. First was in a Bellevue yard 3 Sep (BP,LP) and last was a single, which tied the 4th-latest ever, in the same Bellevue yard (was the bird glued down?) 28 Oct (BP,LP).

Cassin's Vireo: Prior to this fall, and splitting of the "Solitary Vireo" complex, there were 2 specimen records of this taxon. This fall, good coverage of Panhandle migrant traps yielded documented reports of 5 birds, in the period 24 Aug-21 Sep. Singles were at L Minatare 24 Aug (*SJD,JS), Oliver Res 1 Sep (*SJD), L Minatare 6 Sep (*SJD,*WRS,JS), Riverside Park, Scottsbluff, 7 Sep (*WRS,*SJD,JS), and at Oliver Res 21 Sep (*SJD). Colorado data (Andrews and Righter 1992) suggest that Cassin's Vireo moves through mostly in Sep while the few Blue-headed Vireos tend to be reported in Oct.

Plumbeous Vireo: Last within the regular Panhandle range were one at Oliver Res 13 Sep (SJD) and 2 in West Hat Creek Canyon the same day (JGJ). There are few records specifying this species in Fall. Unexpected was a documented report of one far to the e at Wood Duck 21 Sep (*DH), which, if accepted by the NOURC, would be the first eastern NE report of this taxon.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last was one at FF 17 Sep (BP,LP).

Warbling Vireo: A very yellow bird at Winter's Creek L 6 Sep (SJD) may have been of the western subspecies *swainsonii*, currently believed by many to be a species separate from eastern *gilvus* (Sibley and Monroe 1990). The two are difficult to identify in the field, however. Latest were 2 at FL 5 Oct (LR,RH), tying the record late date.

Philadelphia Vireo: Between 1979 and 1995 there were fewer than 10 Fall reports, but in 1996 and 1997 this has changed. This year 5 were reported, 4 from the e, as expected, in the short period 6 Sep at Wolf L (TH) through 30 Sep at FF (BP,LP). Most unexpected, however, was a documented report of one at Riverside Park, Scotts Bluff Co, 3 Sep (*NK), only the 3rd Panhandle record.

Red-eyed Vireo: Best counts were 14 at FF 5 Sep (JS) and 12 in Dakota Co 7 Sep (BFH). Last was one at FF 17 Sep (BP,LP).

Golden-winged Warbler: Only casual in fall, one at FF 4 Sep (JA) was about the 15th fall record ever. Much more surprising was the first fall Panhandle record, a male at Sowbelly Canyon 14 Sep (JGJ). There are, however, 9 fall records on the ne Colorado plains and foothills (Andrews and Righter 1992).

Tennessee Warbler: Only casual in the w, 2 were reported at Oliver Res, one each on 13 and 14 Sep (SJD). These are the 8th and 9th Fall Panhandle records. Other reports were from the e, earliest one at FF 27 Aug (BP,LP) and last in Dixon Co 5 Oct (JJ). Only about 9 were reported in all.

Orange-crowned Warbler: A statewide migrant, earliest were singles on 26 Aug at both ADF (LF,CF) and in Scotts Bluff Co (NK). Best counts were 17 at Oliver Res 21 Sep (SJD) and 15 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 14 Oct (LE). Last was at ADF 28 Oct (LF,CF), a rather late

date.

Nashville Warbler: Reports were from the e, as expected; this species is only casual in the west. Earliest was at FF 3 Sep (BP,LP), best count 10 there 17 Sep (BP,LP), and last one at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 10 Oct (LE).

Northern Parula: Only 3 were reported, including one at NNF, Halsey, 22 Sep (RG), only the 6th Fall record away from the east. Others were a single at Indian Cave SP 13 Sep (JS), and 2 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Sep (JS).

Yellow Warbler: Last were, surprisingly, in Sioux and Scotts Bluff Cos 13 Sep (MB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Previously there were no Panhandle records; now there are 2: one was at NPNWR 13 Sep (JGJ) and another was in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep (NK). There are about 18 Fall records for Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992). There were only 2 other reports, singles at FF 4 Sep (BP,LP) and in Bellevue 9 Sep (BP,LP).

Magnolia Warbler: Reports were from the e, except for one which was banded at NNF, Halsey, 23 Sep (RG). Elsewhere, earliest were 2 at Schramm SP 5 Sep (JS) and one at ADF the same day (ADF). Last was one at FF 10 Oct (JS).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report was of one at Neale Woods 25 Sep (JB); this species is but a casual migrant.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The only reports specifying the western subspecies "Audubon's Warbler" were of singles at Oliver Res 1 Sep (SJD) and at James Ranch, Sioux Co, 22 Sep (SL). Taking the species as a whole, earliest were in the w, with 2 in "fall plumage" at WHNC 29 Aug (JH), possibly fledged nearby, as next to appear was one in Dixon Co 20 Sep (JJ). Best count was 30 at the Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 18 Oct (JS), and last was one at Neale Woods 13 Nov (JB).

Townsend's Warbler: Apparently a regular Fall migrant in small numbers in the Panhandle, there were 3 reports involving 5 birds, all imms/females, and all at Oliver Res. One was seen 6 Sep (*SJD,JS,WRS), 3 were there 13 Sep (SJD), and another was seen 21 Sep (SJD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Only 3 were reported: singles were at FF 3-4 Sep (BP,LP) and another was in Bellevue 7 Oct (BP,LP).

Blackburnian Warbler: There are only 3 previous Panhandle reports, and so a record this Fall of an imm male at Ash Hollow SHP becomes the 4th, even though it was just barely in the Panhandle (*SJD). The only other reports were of one at FF 3 Sep (BP,LP) and 4 there 4 Sep (BP,LP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Rarely reported in Fall, 2 were at FF 2 Sep (JS).

Blackpoll Warbler: While rather common in spring, this species is only casual in fall. There were 2 reports: singles were at FF 4 Sep (JA) and in Dixon Co 13 Sep (JJ).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Usually reported regularly in Fall, this year the only report was surprisingly far w, at CLNWR, where 2 imms together were studied at length 8 Sep (*WRS,*JS). This is the first Panhandle record for this species. There are 13 eastern Colorado records, however (Andrews and Righter 1992).

Black-and-white Warbler: The earliest was in Monroe Canyon 24 Aug (SJD), and may have summered there; away from breeding locations first were one at Winters Creek L 1 Sep (SJD) and 3 at FF 3 Sep (BP,LP). Best count was 4 at FF 4 Sep (BP,LP) and last one there 1 Oct (BP,LP).

American Redstart: Earliest was one at Winters Creek L 1 Sep (SJD), and last one at Stage Hill, Scotts Bluff Co, 21 Sep (SJD). Only about 8 were reported.

Prothonotary Warbler: The only report was, most unexpectedly, of 1

near L Minatare 13 Sep (MB,DH,JGJ), yet another first Fall Panhandle record. There are 14 records for the eastern Colorado plains (Andrews and Righter 1992).

Ovenbird: The few reports were routine.

Northern Waterthrush: Only the 3rd Fall Panhandle record was provided by one in Carter Canyon 15 Aug (SJD), a rather early date. The only previous records were in Sioux Co 25-27 Aug 1990 and Dawes Co 5 Sep 1992. Only 2 others were reported, in Dakota Co 2 Sep (BFH) and at FF 3 Sep (BP,LP).

Connecticut Warbler: The only report was of one at FF 9 Sep (JA).

Mourning Warbler: Only 5 were reported, all from FF; first was one 27 Aug (BP,LP), 3 were there 3 Sep (BP,LP), and one on 4 Sep (BP,LP).

MacGillivray's Warbler: Only 2 were reported, from w of Harrison on 14 Sep (DH) and in Sowbelly Canyon the same day (JGJ). This species, like Townsend's Warbler, is probably a regular Fall migrant in small numbers through the Panhandle.

Common Yellowthroat: Best count was 8 at FF 17 Sep (BP,LP) and last was one there 7 Oct (BP,LP).

Wilson's Warbler: This was a great Fall for this statewide migrant, especially in the w, where best counts were 39, a new record, at Oliver Res 1 Sep (SJD) and 36 there on 13 Sep (SJD). Earliest was one at ADF 24 Aug (LF,CF) and last one at FF 1 Oct (BP,LP). Best eastern count was 5 at ADF 4 Sep (LF,CF).

Canada Warbler: Singles were at FF 3 and 5 Sep (BP,LP) and at ADF 21 Sep (LF,CF) for the only reports.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were routine.

Summer Tanager: The only reports were a little early for migrants, although 2 at Indian Cave SP 10 Aug (JS) and one at FF 29 Aug (BP,LP) were at locations which have not had known breeding populations in recent years.

Scarlet Tanager: The only report was of one at FF 5 Sep (BP,LP).

Western Tanager: Migrants were in Scotts Bluff Co 3-17 Sep (NK) and at Oliver Res 21 Sep (SJD). Other reports were from summering locations.

Northern Cardinal: Bad news from the tiny Scotts Bluff Co outlier population was the death of a female after the late Oct blizzard (AK). Such an event could be the end of this colonizing attempt.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Reports were from expected locations in the e; last was an imm male at Wood Duck 3 Oct (DH), a rather late date.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Last was one near Gibbon, at the e edge of the range, 29 Sep (LR,RH), tying the 3rd latest ever.

Blue Grosbeak: Last were 2 in Dixon Co 19 Sep (JJ).

Lazuli Bunting: Reports were from the Panhandle, last a male at Oliver Res 21 Sep (SJD), a rather late date.

Indigo Bunting: Westerly were a single in Carter Canyon 2 Aug (AK) and 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (NK). Last was one at ADF 13 Oct (LF,CF), tying the 2nd latest ever.

Dickcissel: Reports were all from the e half of the state. Best count was 11, all imms, in Clay Co 4 Oct (LR,RH), and latest was one in s Lancaster Co 5 Oct (LE).

Eastern Towhee: Reports were mostly from the e, best counts 5 at Wood Duck, a breeding site, 8 Aug (DH) and 4 at FF 16 Oct (BP,LP). A hybrid was at Wood Duck as late as 28 Oct (DH). Was it an arriving bird considering itself a Spotted or a departing bird thinking Eastern? Of interest at the w edge of the n part of the breeding range was one in extreme e Knox Co 5 Oct, only the 2nd county record for the observer (MB). Last was westerly at Kearney 30 Oct (LR,RH), and also westerly was one at FL 5 Oct (LR,RH). These 2 reports suggest that Fall migrants may occur west to ce NE.

Spotted Towhee: First in the se was in Cass Co 24 Sep (GW), followed by 3 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 30 Sep (LE). Best count was 8 at Wyuka Cem 10 Oct (LE).

American Tree Sparrow: Earliest were in Knox Co 15 Oct (MB), Arthur Co 18 Oct (MB), and 2 at FF 21 Oct (BP,LP). Best count was 70 at BOL 14 Nov (LE).

Chipping Sparrow: Best count was 25 in Dixon Co 5 Oct (JJ) and last one at ADF 27 Oct (LF,CF).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First was one at WHNC 27 Aug (JH), best count 20 in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (NK) and last, one near Gibbon 18 Oct (LR,RH).

Brewer's Sparrow: Reports of summering birds from locations not mentioned often for this species were of a pair with 3 fledglings at Panorama Peak, Kimball Co, 12 Aug (BFH), the state's highest point (boy, were they ever high!), and a single ad at Oliver Res 16 Aug (BFH). Four were near Exit 1 on I-80 7 Sep (SJD).

Field Sparrow: Rare in the w, westerly reports were of singles far to the w in Sioux Co 13 Sep (MB), and somewhat far w at NNF, Halsey, 22 Sep (RG) and 28 Sep (LR,RH), and in Frontier Co 19 Oct (LR,RH). Best count was 45 at Wolf L 15 Oct (TH), and last a single at ADF 28 Oct (LF,CF).

Vesper Sparrow: Last was one in Knox Co 25 Oct (MB).

Lark Sparrow: A "big movement" was noted at NNF, Halsey, 15 Sep (RG). Last was one in Dixon Co 5 Oct (JJ).

Lark Bunting: None were reported e of the Panhandle, where best count was only 100, those n of Harrison 30 Aug (DH), and last were several groups in the same place 14 Sep (MB,DH).

Savannah Sparrow: First were 6 at Enders Res 27 Sep (LR,RH) and last 20 at ADF 24 Oct (LF,CF) and one in Dodge Co 25 Oct (MB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Best count was 200 in groups of 10-30 along Highway 20 in Sioux Co 30 Aug (DH); these were presumably migrants or post-breeding flocks. Last were 2 at Jack Sinn Marsh 12 Oct (JS), a rather late date.

Le Conte's Sparrow: This sparrow is rather common in fall, as reflected by the several reports, but w only to Knox and Lancaster Cos. First was one at Dodge Park, Omaha, 20 Sep (JS) and last one at ADF 28 Oct (LF,CF). Best count was 20 at Pintail Marsh 21 Oct (JGJ,WRS).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: The only reports were of one at a regular location, Jack Sinn Marsh, 12 Oct (JS), and 2 at Pintail Marsh 21 Oct (JGJ,WRS), the latter the latest ever.

Fox Sparrow: Most seen in NE are the rusty eastern subspecies; there are only 2 records of greyish western types. All reports were from e NE, where most of the NE birds are normally found. Earliest was one in Lancaster Co 30 Sep (LE), best count an excellent 18 at Wood Duck 28 Oct (DH), and last one at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 14 Nov (LE).

Song Sparrow: Rare in the w, there were 2 such reports, a single in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (NK), and 2 n of Harrison 13 Sep (DH). There seems to be a very low-density fall movement in the Panhandle, where breeding is unknown except for Oliver Res.

Lincoln's Sparrow: This species was widespread this fall; although less common in the w, it occurs statewide. Earliest were 10 in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Sep (AK), rather early, best counts 25 in Clay Co 4 Oct (LR,RH) and 23 in Dixon Co the same day (JJ), and last 2 at ADF 1 Nov (LF,CF) and 4 in Dixon Co the same day (JJ).

Swamp Sparrow: Not many observers reported this species. Best count was 22 in Knox Co 5 Oct (MB).

White-throated Sparrow: Earliest were in Knox Co 22 Sep (MB). Best count was 30 at FF 16 Oct (BP,LP), and last one at Wolf L 23 Nov (TH). A few linger into Dec most years, however.

White-crowned Sparrow: Although both subspecies occur in NE, eastern *leucophrys* (black lores, pink bill) and western *gambelii* (pale lores, orange bill), it appears that the black-lored birds are more numerous, especially in e and central NE. One observer (SJD) saw only one white-lored bird all Fall, that at Oliver Res 5 Oct (SJD). Most reports were not specified as to subspecies. Earliest was a "big movement" at NNF, Halsey, 16 Sep (RG), best count 60 black-lored at Keystone L 12 Oct (SJD). A few winter.

Harris' s Sparrow: Earliest was in Knox Co 1 Oct (MB) and best count 200 at Wood Duck 28 Oct (DH). Rare in the w, one was s of Gering 26 Oct (AK).

Dark-eyed Junco: Most are reported unspecified as to forms; it would be valuable to differentiate at least between the 4 forms, now considered subspecies, which at one time were separate species: "Slate-colored", "Oregon" (includes "Pink-sided"), "White-winged", and "Grey-headed". Reports of specified forms are treated first. "Slate-colored", comprising most migrant and wintering e NE juncos, but also common in the w, were first at James Ranch 28 Sep (SL). "Oregon" juncos, most numerous in the w, rare in the e, were first at James Ranch 12 Oct (SL); "many" were at HCR by 30 Nov (LR,RH), and in the e, 3 were with 35 "Slate-colored" at Wood Duck 13 Nov (DH), and one at Wolf L 28 Nov (TH). "White-winged" junco, the only form that breeds in NE (in the Pine Ridge), and which winters uncommonly in the w, first appeared at the James Ranch feeders 16 Oct (SL). As for Dark-eyed Junco (unspecified), earliest (apart from the 28 Sep "Slate-colored" form at James Ranch) were in Knox Co 30 Sep (MB). Best count was 210 in Lancaster Co 14 Nov (LE). "Grey-headed" junco is casual in NE; none were reported.

McCown's Longspur: Reports were routine.

Lapland Longspur: Earliest were 70 in w Kimball Co 26 Oct (SJD) and best count 200 in Dodge Co 14 Nov (MB).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were routine.

Snow Bunting: The only ones which made the Fall Report were singles at Pawnee L 2 Nov (JS), a rather early date, and in Cass Co 27 Nov (GW).

Bobolink: An early fall migrant, flocks occur in Aug, usually in cattails, and most birds are by then in winter plumage and look like giant sparrows. One still in male plumage was at Rowe Sanctuary 2 Aug (LR,RH), however. Last was one at Oliver Res 6 Sep (SJD).

Red-winged Blackbird: Best count was 1500 at Wood Duck 4 Sep (DH).

Eastern Meadowlark: Reports were routine.

Western Meadowlark: Reports were routine.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last were 10 at Nebraska City 18 Oct (LF,CF).

Rusty Blackbird: As expected, reports were from the e; earliest was one at Nebraska City 11 Oct (LF,CF) and best count 22 at Wood Duck 26 Nov (DH). This species often seen in at least early Dec.

Brewer's Blackbird: Movement begins in late Aug-early Sep; 100 were near Crawford, in the summer range, 1 Sep (AK), but 350 at Nebraska City (LF,CF) were definitely migrants. Last was one at Nebraska City 18 Oct (LF,CF) and another in Keith Co the same day (MB). Wintering is rare.

Great-tailed Grackle: Recent years have seen a few reports in summer in the w; this year one was in Scotts Bluff Co 20 Aug (NK). A breeding colony has established at Wood Duck; the breeding birds departed during late Jul, but 24 apparent migrants were there 24 Aug (DH). Summering in ne Otoe Co continued, with 1-4 at the OPPD Wetland 8-22 Aug (MB,LF,CF,SJD). Clearly migrants were 200 at Offutt Base L 27 Nov (BP,LP), also the last reported.

Common Grackle: Best counts were 1000 at both Loomis on 10 Aug

(LR,RH) and Nebraska City 7 Sep (LF,CF). Early flocks such as these probably consist mostly of juvs. Individuals often linger into Dec.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Best count was 600 at Wood Duck 9 Oct (DH), and last, 2 in Dixon Co 13 Nov (JJ). Few remain into Dec.

Orchard Oriole: A pair with a brood was at Oliver Res 11 Aug (BFH). Last were 2 at Winters Creek L 6 Sep (SJD) and 4 at Wolf L the same day (TH).

Baltimore Oriole: Last was one at FL 13 Sep (LR,RH). Two hybrid males (with Bullock's Oriole) were at Riverside Park, Scotts Bluff Co, 7 Sep (SJD).

Bullock's Oriole: Reports were routine.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: Two groups were reported, 46 at Scotts Bluff NM 22 Nov (SJD), and 6 at an escarpment a few miles n of Henry in sw Sioux Co 29 Nov (SJD).

Purple Finch: First was rather early at Neale Woods 7 Oct (JB), followed by another at Winside 30 Oct (NB). Only 11 were reported, all from the e.

Cassin's Finch: The only report was of one at WHNC 27 Oct (SJD), not an indication of an impending influx!

House Finch: Best counts were 86 in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep (NK) and 45 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 30 Sep (LE).

Red Crossbill: Far fewer were afield than was the case last year. The only report away from the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills was a female at a Dixon Co feeder 16 Aug (JJ). No double-digit counts were reported.

White-winged Crossbill: Foreshadowing a significant influx this winter were 5-7 at Norfolk Cem 4 Nov (NB,MB) which were still present at the end of the period (SJD), and a female at a LaVista feeder from 17 Nov through the end of the period (JS).

Common Redpoll: In contrast to last year, reports were numerous. Earliest was a female near Gibbon (*RH,LR), followed closely by another at Winside the next day (NB). Best count by period's end was only 4 however, at L Minatare (SJD).

Pine Siskin: Shaping up as only an average year, best count was only 44, at WHNC 29 Nov (SJD), far fewer than last year's count there, although as many as 34 were as far se as Nebraska City 23 Nov (LF,CF). Two at Rock Bluff Cem, Cass Co, 1-8 Sep (GW) may have summered, but one near Gibbon 12 Aug (LR,RH) was unexpected.

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

Evening Grosbeak: None were reported, again in contrast to last year.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

OBSERVERS

Jim Alt (JA), Bellevue; John Brenneman (JB), Omaha; Norma Brockmoller (NB), Winside; Ellen Brogie (EB), Creighton; Mark Brogie (MB), Creighton; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Larry Einemann (LE), Lincoln; Dave C. Ely (DCE), Fort Collins, CO; Carol Falk (CF), Nebraska City; Laurence Falk (LF), Nebraska City; Marlin French (MF), Ellsworth; Ruth Green (RG), Bellevue; Betsy Hancock (BH), Elmwood; Robin Harding (RH), Gibbon; David Heidt (DH), Norfolk; Thomas Hoffman (TH), Omaha; Erin Huebschmann (EH), Omaha; Jeff Huebschmann (JH), Omaha; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City; Jan Johnson (JJ), Wakefield; Gerry Jorgensen (GJ), Blair; Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Blair; Alice Kenitz (AK), Gering; Lucy Koenig (LK), Scottsbluff; Nick Komar (NK), Fort Collins, CO; Sandy Lemmon (SL), Crawford; Babs Padelford (BP), Bellevue; Loren Padelford (LP), Bellevue; Larry Randolph (LR), Gibbon; Kathleen Crawford-Rose (KCR), Bellevue; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor, IA; John Sullivan (JS), Lincoln; Gertrude Wood (GW), Elmwood.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW BANDED IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

On 20 December 1997, I banded a Black-throated Sparrow in the vicinity of 43rd and J Streets in South Omaha, Nebraska. The band number on this bird is 2120/83856. It was an AHY-Male and, according to the description given by James D. Rising in his book, A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada, it was of the subspecies *Amphispiza b. bilineata*. This is the smallest of the three races found in the United States and it is indigenous to central Texas. Besides the smaller size, the identifying field mark is the greater amount of white found in the outer tail feathers. One of the accompanying photographs of this bird shows this field mark very clearly.

This is the second Black-throated Sparrow to be banded in Nebraska, both in the Omaha area, and the fourth sighting record for the state.



Photographs of the Black-throated Sparrow banded in Omaha, NE. Note the leg band and the tail pattern in the photo on the right. The photos were provided by Raymond C. Korpi, 1106 Bea Circle, Bellevue, NE 68005.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This issue is the last of my six-year term as Editor of The Nebraska Bird Review. It has been a challenging and stimulating experience, and I have learned much about bird lore and publishing methods. My workload was lightened considerably when Ross Silcock took on the seasonal field reports in 1994, assisted initially by Richard C. Rosche and recently by Joel G. Jorgensen. Dr. R. G. (Rusty) Cortelyou volunteered to compile the index for each volume during my term. This is a time-consuming and detailed project, and I sincerely appreciate his contribution.

I am very pleased that Dr. Bill Clemente is succeeding me as Editor. In addition to teaching ten courses in the Department of English, Peru State College, Peru, NE, he has had editorial experience reviewing books for several publishing companies, and has made numerous presentations at conferences or symposia. He has involved Grade 5 students in the Project Classroom Feeder Watch programs sponsored by the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory. It is evident that Bill is eminently qualified to be the NBR Editor, and he is assuming the position with great enthusiasm. My best wishes go to him and those who will assist him.

----- Rosalind Morris

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